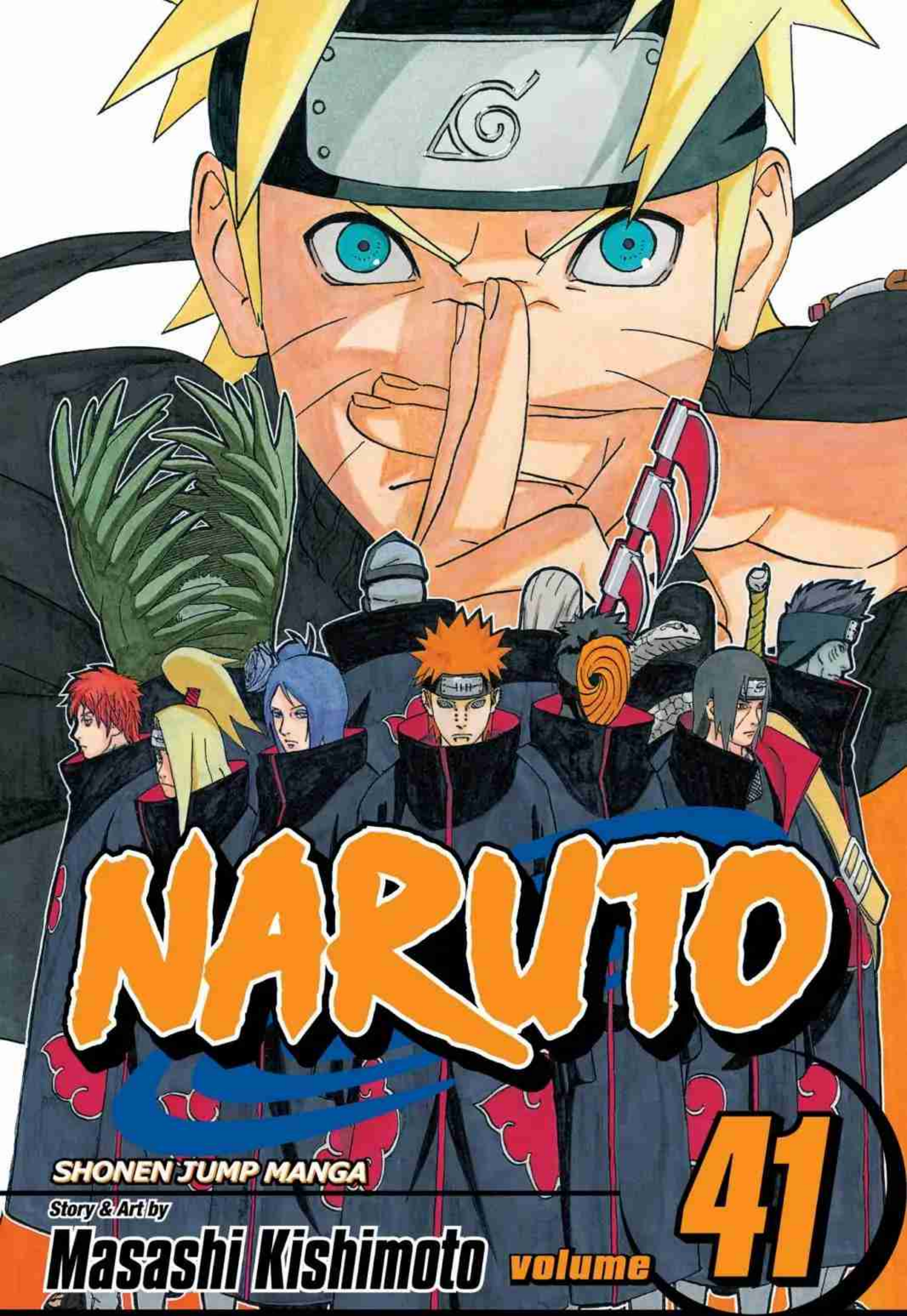
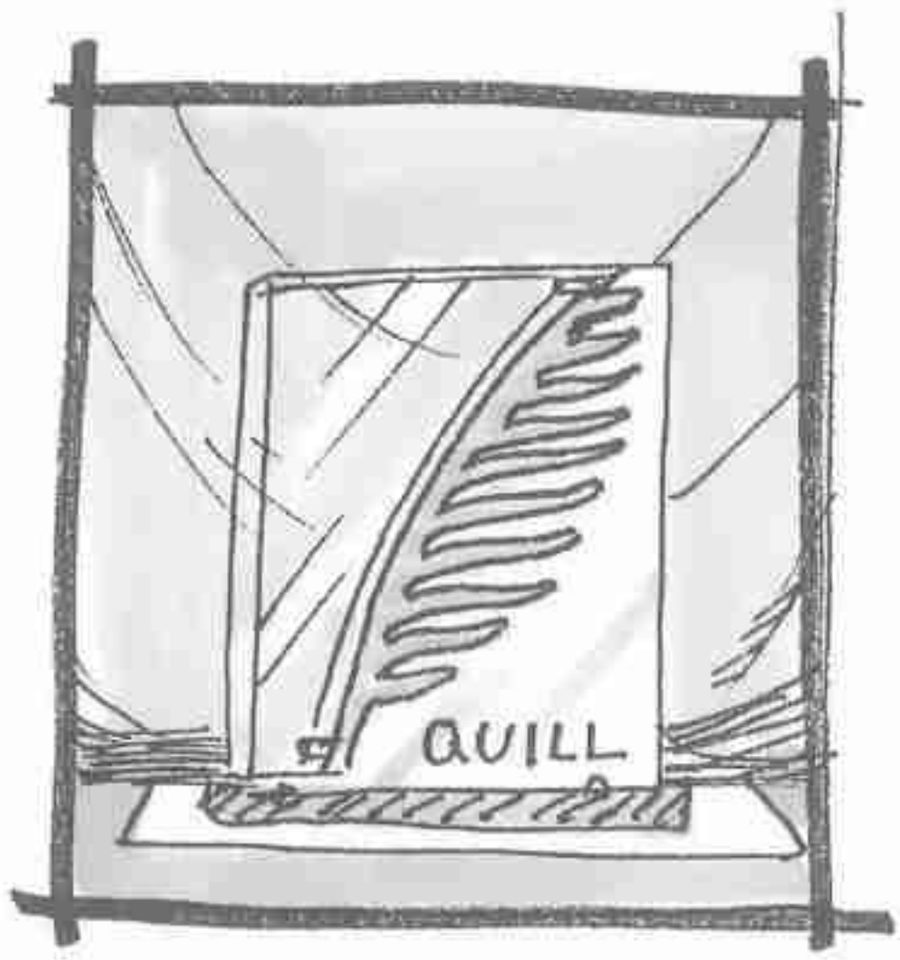

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume
41



岸本斉史

Thanks to everyone's support, *Naruto* has now received its first award in the U.S. I was very honored that a Japanese manga was able to win from among so many American comics. I swear to keep working hard on this manga.

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2008*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 41
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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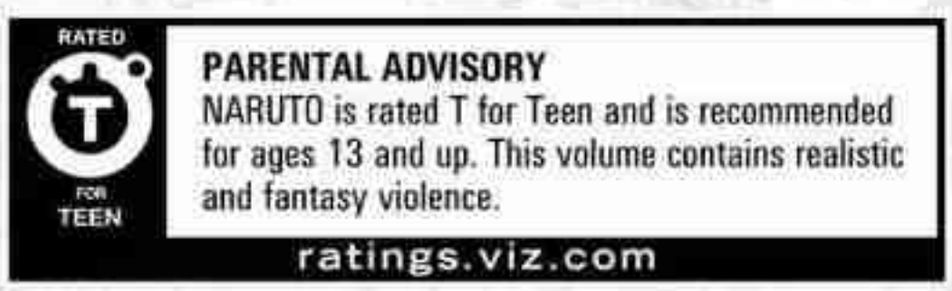
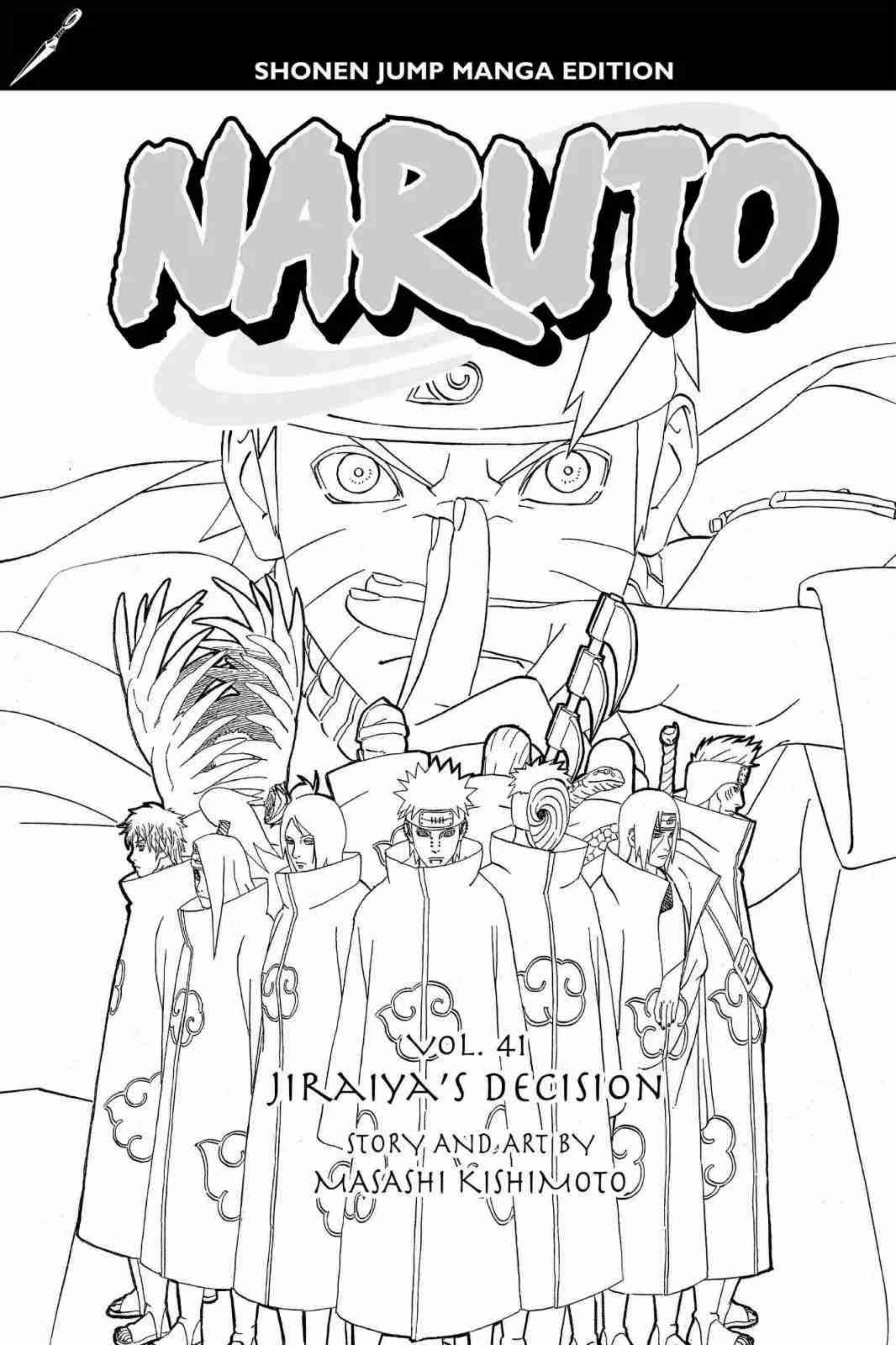


SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 41

JIRAIYA'S DECISION

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Naruto ナルト

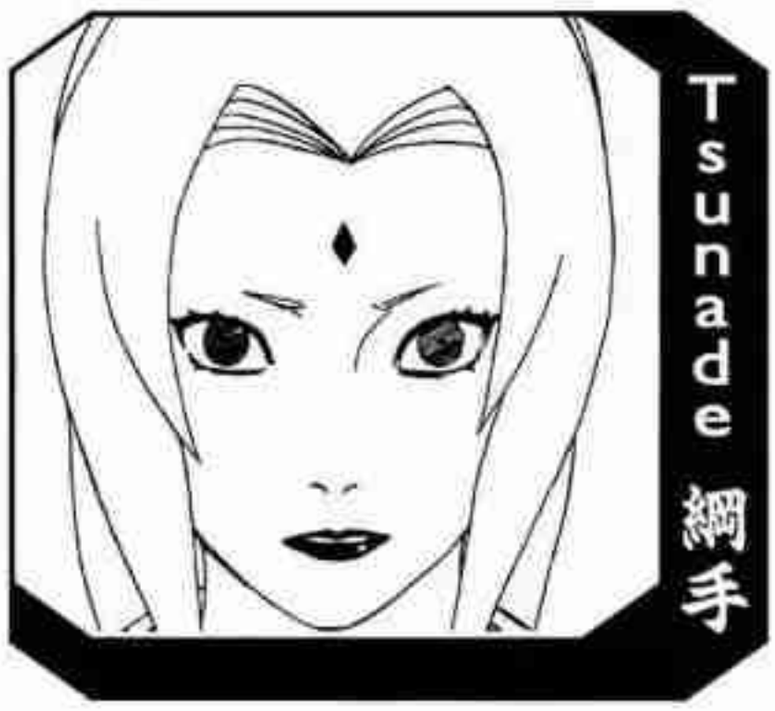
Sasuke サスケ

Kakashi カカシ

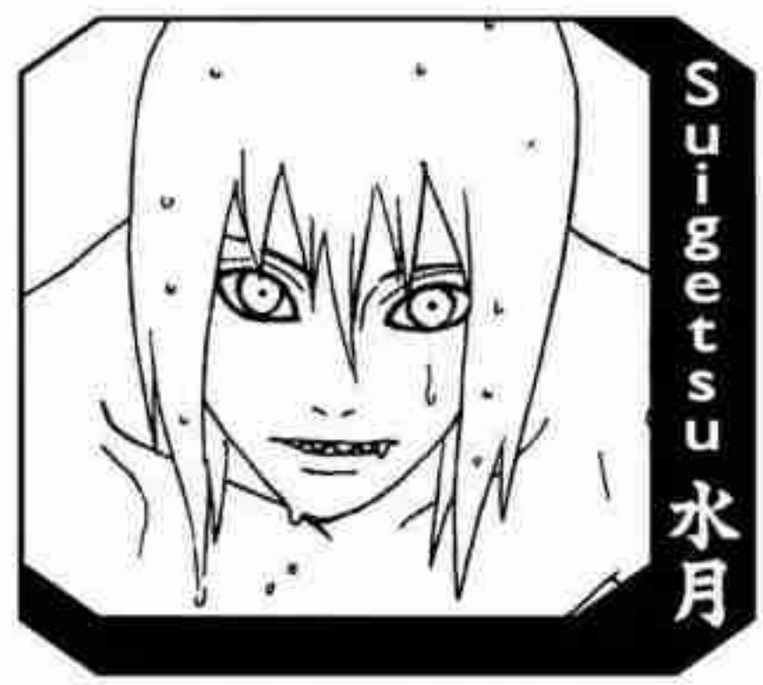
Sakura サクラ

Sai サイ

Yamato ヤマト


Tsunade 綱手

Jiraiya 自来也



THE STORY SO FAR...

Once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy, Uzumaki Naruto now serves dutifully among the ranks of the Konoha shinobi—an illustrious group of ninja sworn to protect their village from the forces of evil seeking to destroy it from without and within...

After his former classmate, Uchiha Sasuke, is seduced by the evil Orochimaru, Naruto makes it his personal mission to find and save his friend from the darkness growing inside him. Sasuke, however, doesn't want to be found. He only seeks revenge on the man he hates most in the world—the one he blames for murdering his parents—his older brother, Uchiha Itachi. Though Sasuke's quest is temporarily delayed after he comes into conflict with his brother's associates in the insidious organization known as the Akatsuki, at long last he catches up to Itachi...

Meanwhile, Jiraiya infiltrates the Hidden Rain Village on a top-secret mission to gather intelligence on Pain, the Akatsuki's enigmatic leader. Little does he realize he, too, is being watched...

NARUTO

VOL. 41
JIRAIYA'S DECISION

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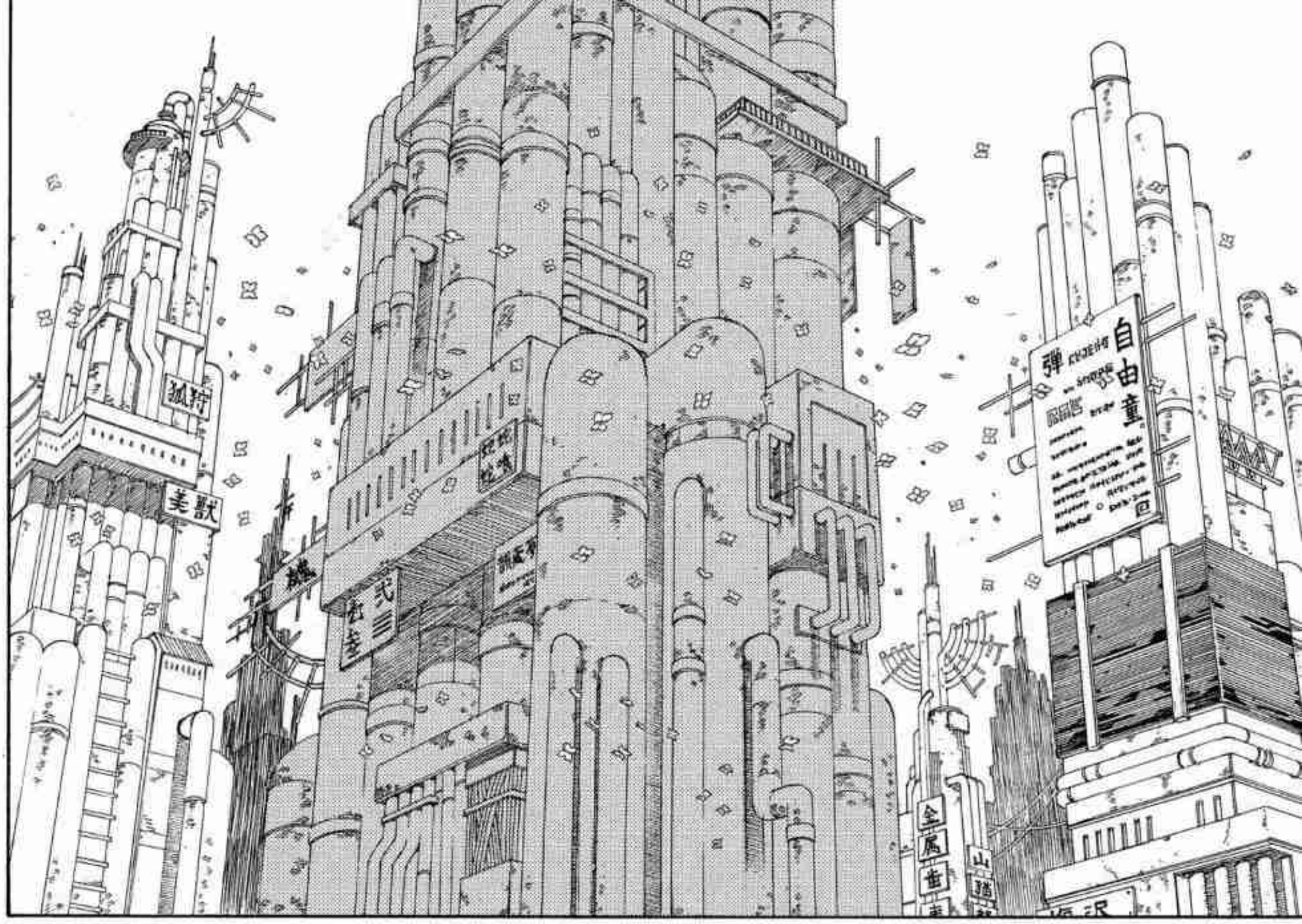
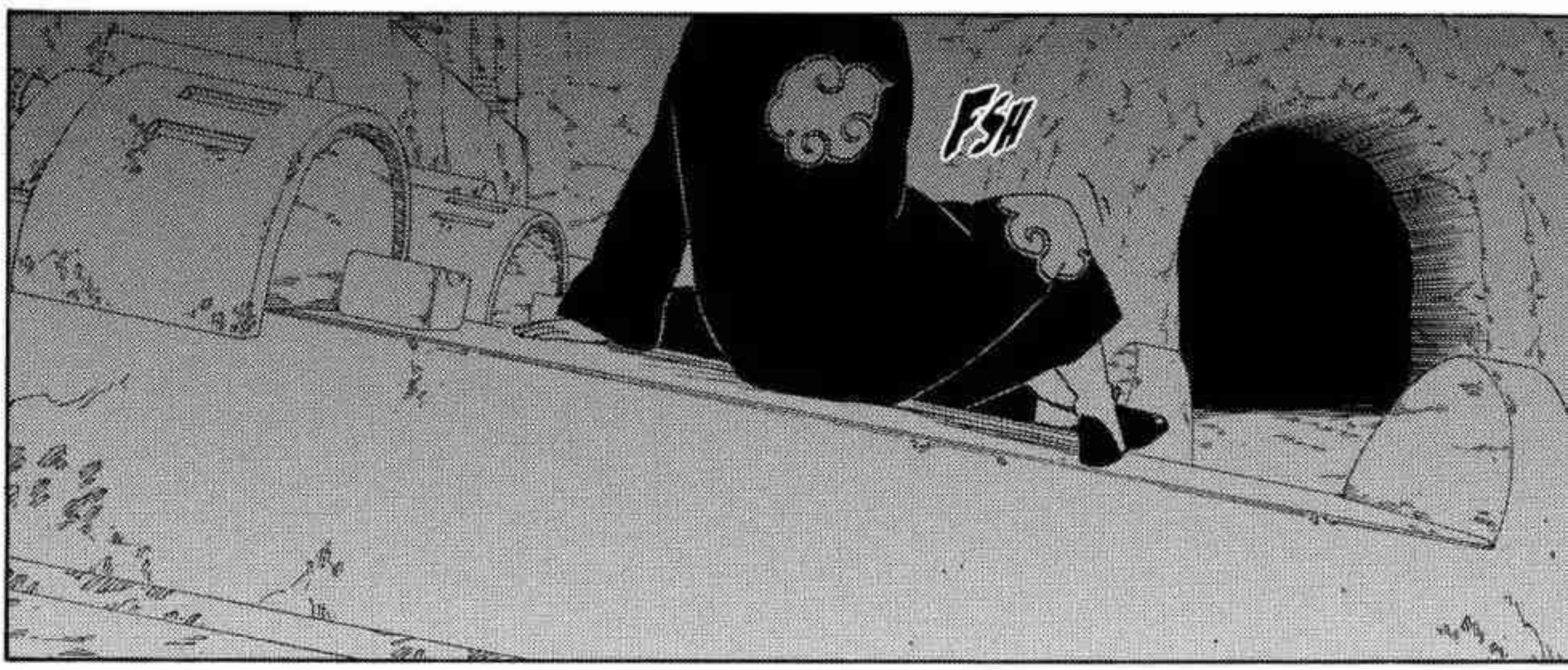
Number 370: Unease


狩猟
美獣
自由
金属
山

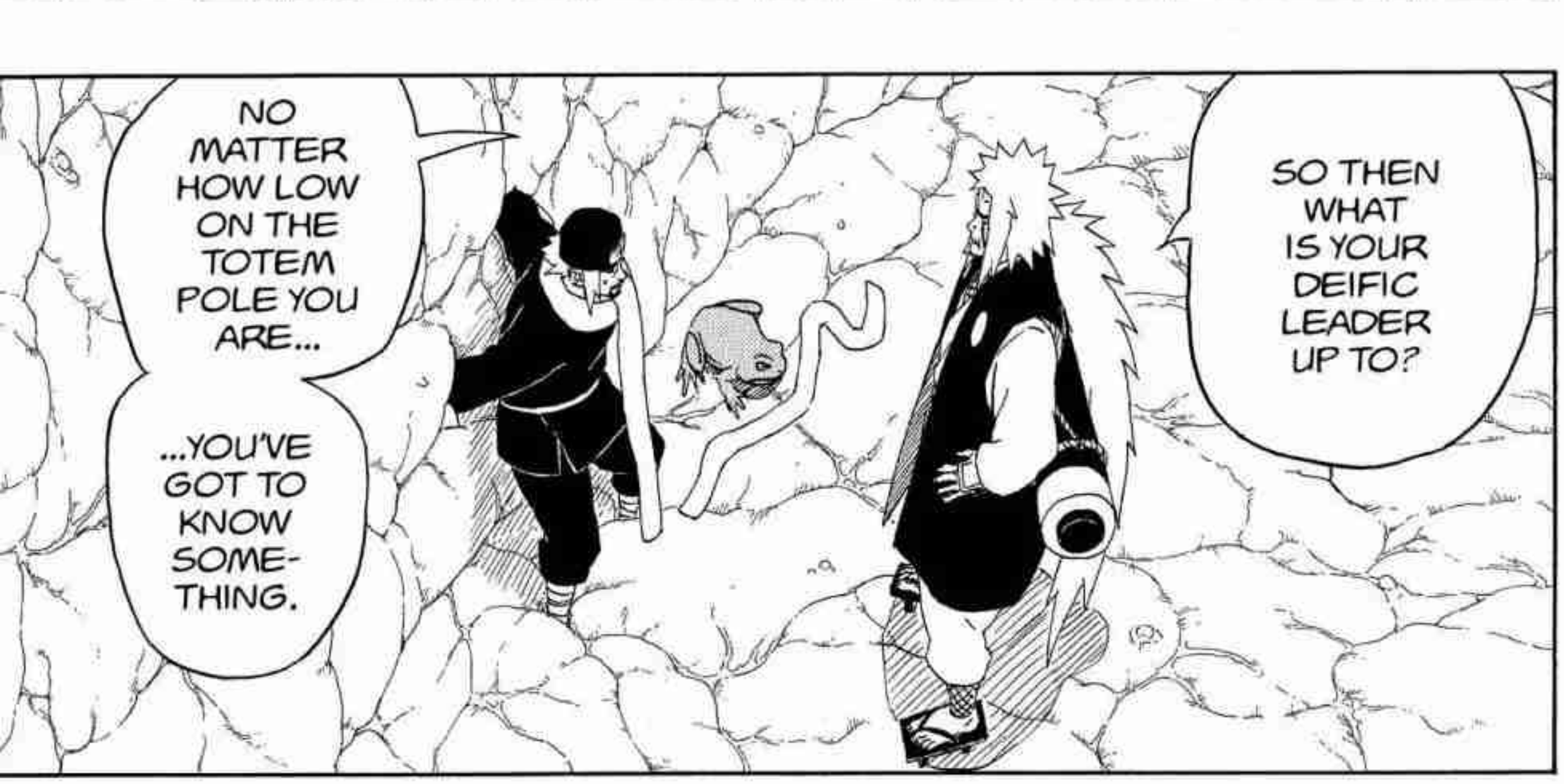

FSH

TMP

...

THAT'S RIGHT.

ALL-POWER-FUL, HUH...


NO MATTER HOW LOW ON THE TOTEM POLE YOU ARE...
...YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW SOME-THING.
SO THEN WHAT IS YOUR DEIFIC LEADER UP TO?

SO LET'S FORGET ABOUT GODS...
...WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT THE AKATSUKI INSTEAD?
I SEE...

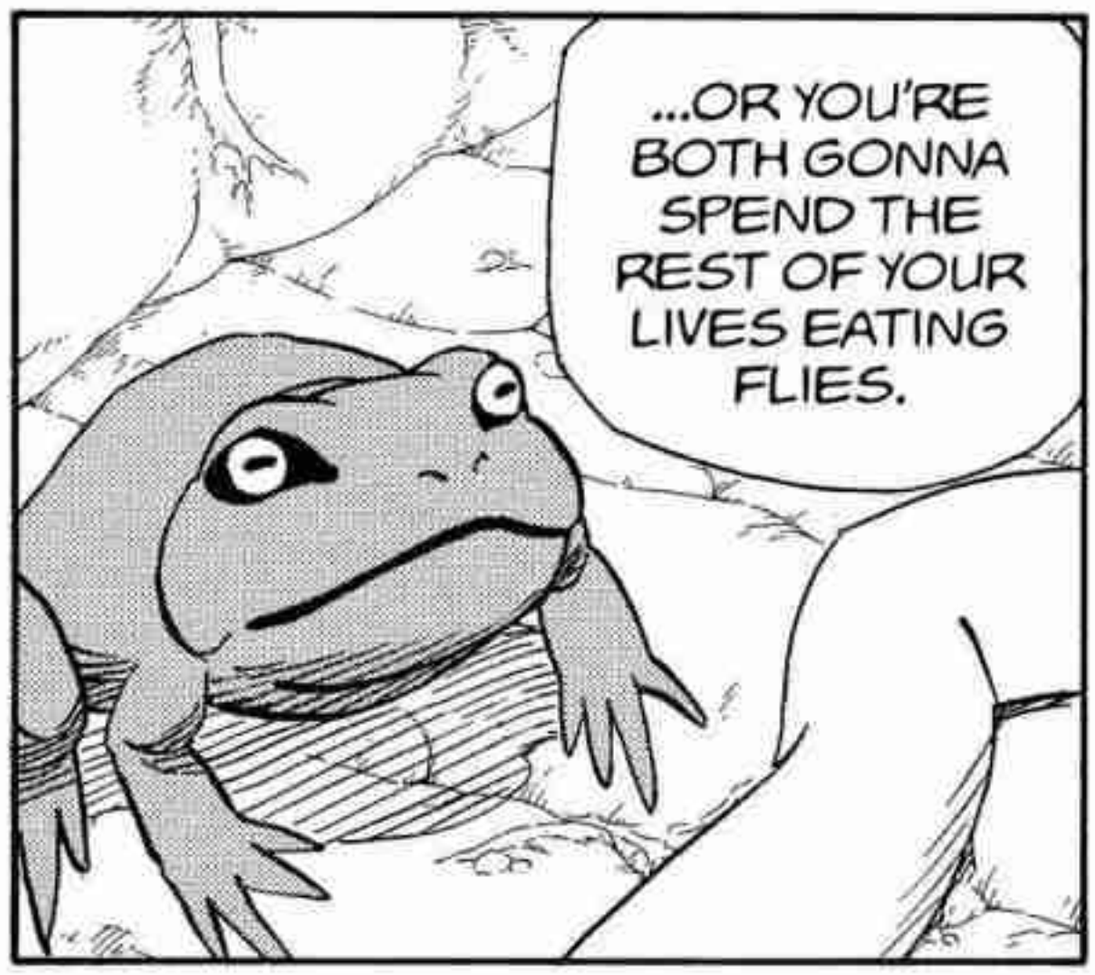
GODS WORK IN MYSTERI-OUS WAYS.
WE MORTALS HAVE NO CLUE HOW.

...
油

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
...

I CAN TELL IF AND WHEN YOU LIE.
YOUR PULSE IS ALSO BEING MEASURED.

...BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...
YOUR ARMS AND LEGS ARE TRAPPED...
...SO YOU CAN'T MAKE A RUN FOR IT...


...OR YOU'RE BOTH GONNA SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIVES EATING FLIES.

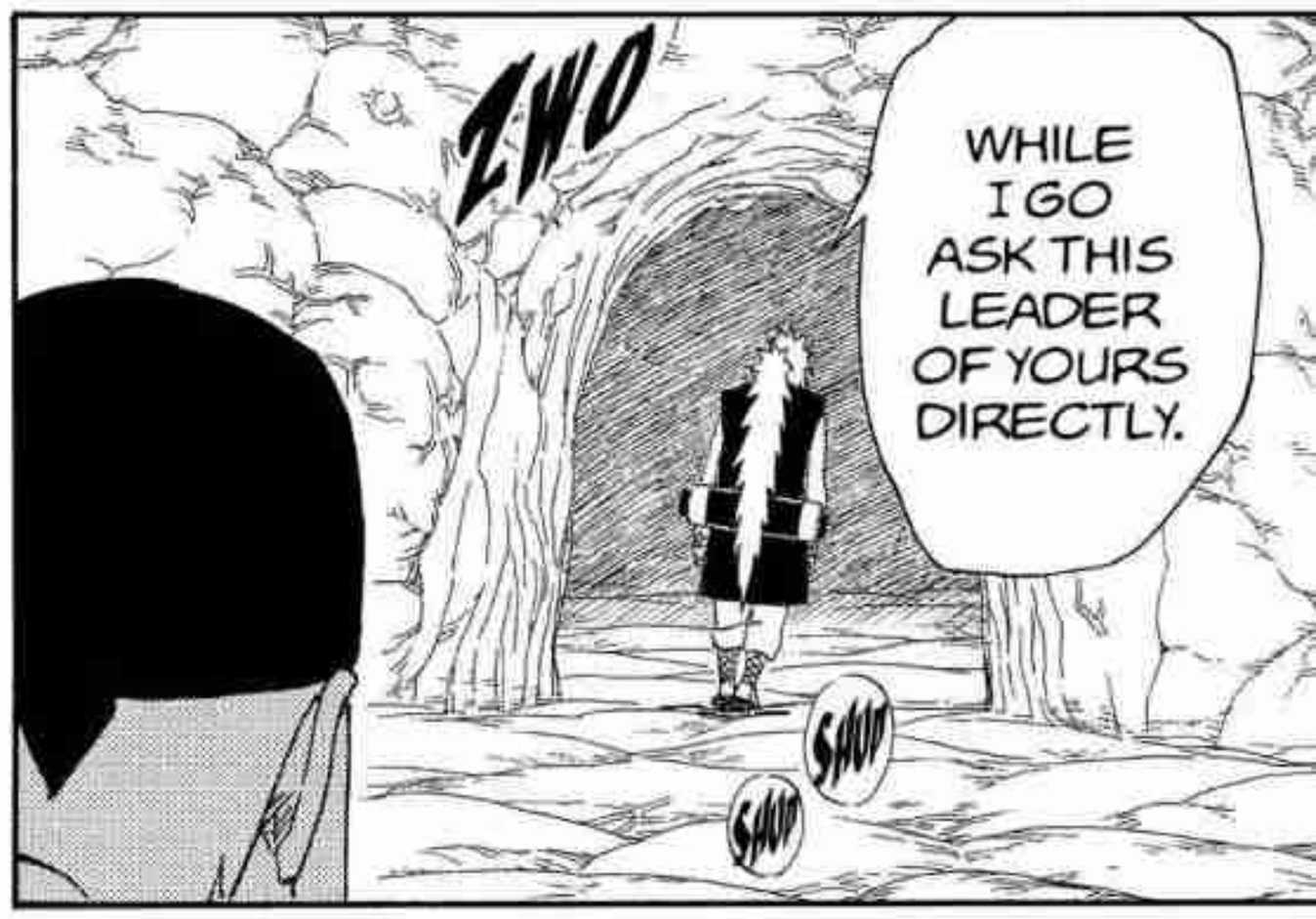
NOW SPILL IT...
SHP
油

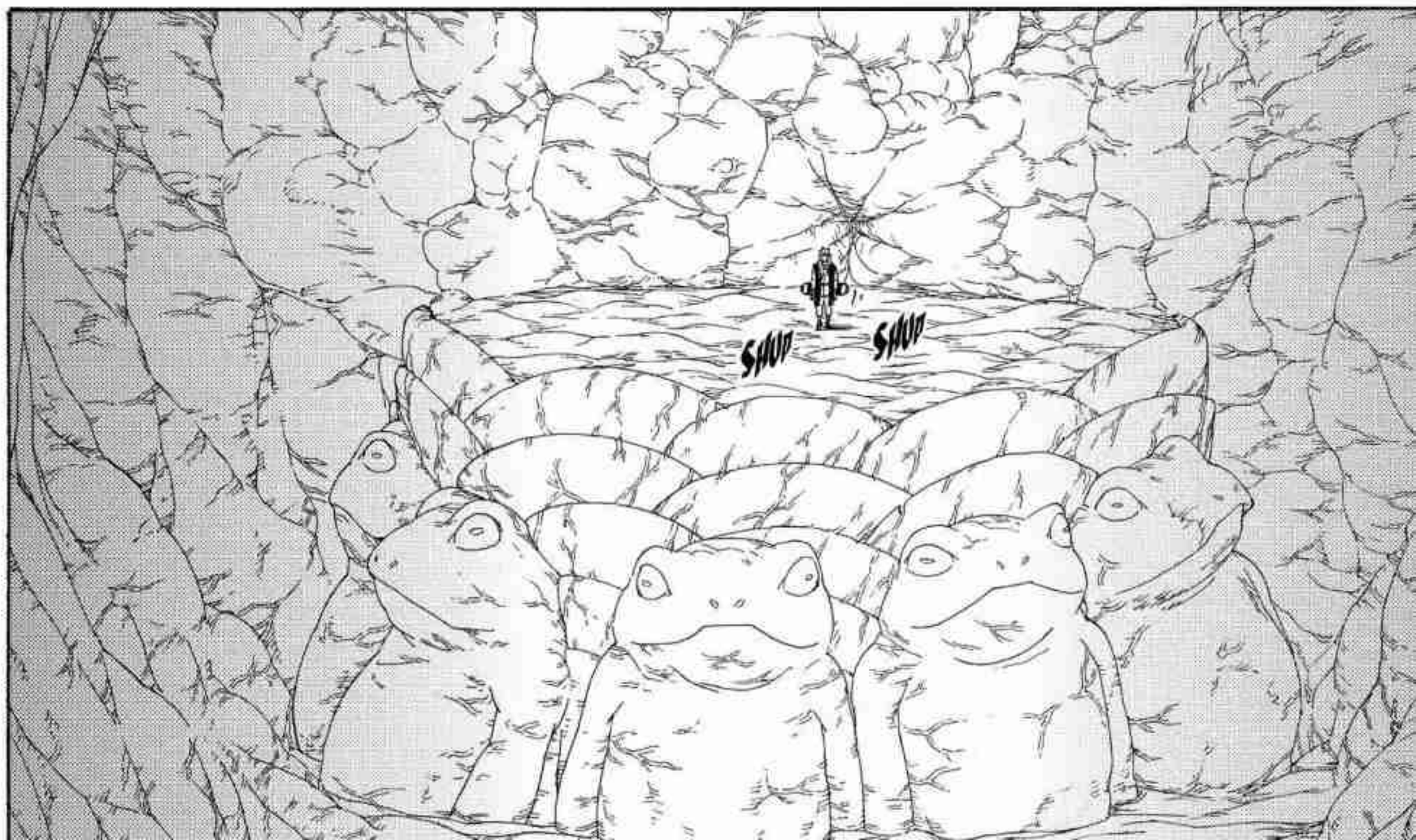
READ THIS WAY
I'M NOT SAYING ANY-THING ELSE!
TURN ME INTO A FROG OR WHAT-EVER ELSE YOU WANT!
UGH...
I MAY BE LOW-RANKING, BUT I STILL HAVE MY PRIDE!
AND I AM SHINOBI...!
...
...
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO AN OUTSIDER WHO DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT WHAT GOES ON HERE!!

YOU JUST STAY PUT.
OKAY THEN.

WELL... INTERROGATION WAS NEVER MY FORTE ANYWAY...
FLAP
HEH... STILL A SHINOBI, NO MATTER HOW LOW-RANKING, EH...

ZWUP...


ZWO
WHILE I GO ASK THIS LEADER OF YOURS DIRECTLY.
SHUP
SHUP


SHUP
SHUP

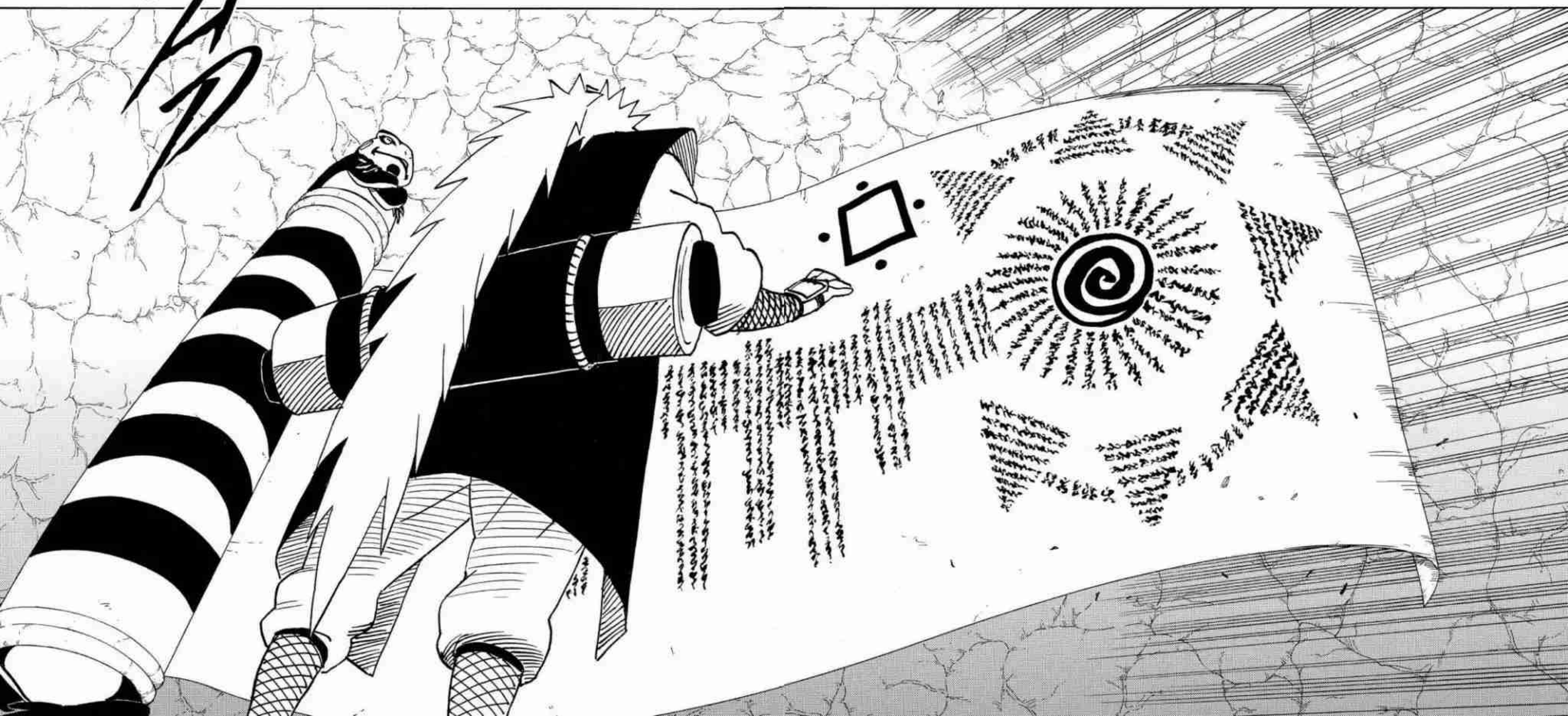
READ THIS WAY
ZHI...
I THOUGHT WE'D AGREED ABOUT NARUTO'S KEY...
EY, JIRAIYA! WHATCHA THINKING, SUMMONING ME RIGHT NOW?!
I'VE GOT MY REASONS, BUT I WAS, UM, THINKING OF REMOVING YOU FROM INSIDE ME... TEMPORARILY, OF COURSE.
OH NO, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TRAINING THIS TIME.
HMMM
HMMM

IT'S JUST A PRECAUTION...
BUT HURRY UP-- I WANT TO PRESS THE STORAGE RELEASE SEAL.
HMM HMM...

HEH... MUST BE REALLY SOMETHING IF YOU HAVE TO RELEASE ME.

I GOTTA FIGHT A VERY TOUGH OPPONENT.

WHAT IN THE WORLD'S GOING ON?!
REMOVE ME?

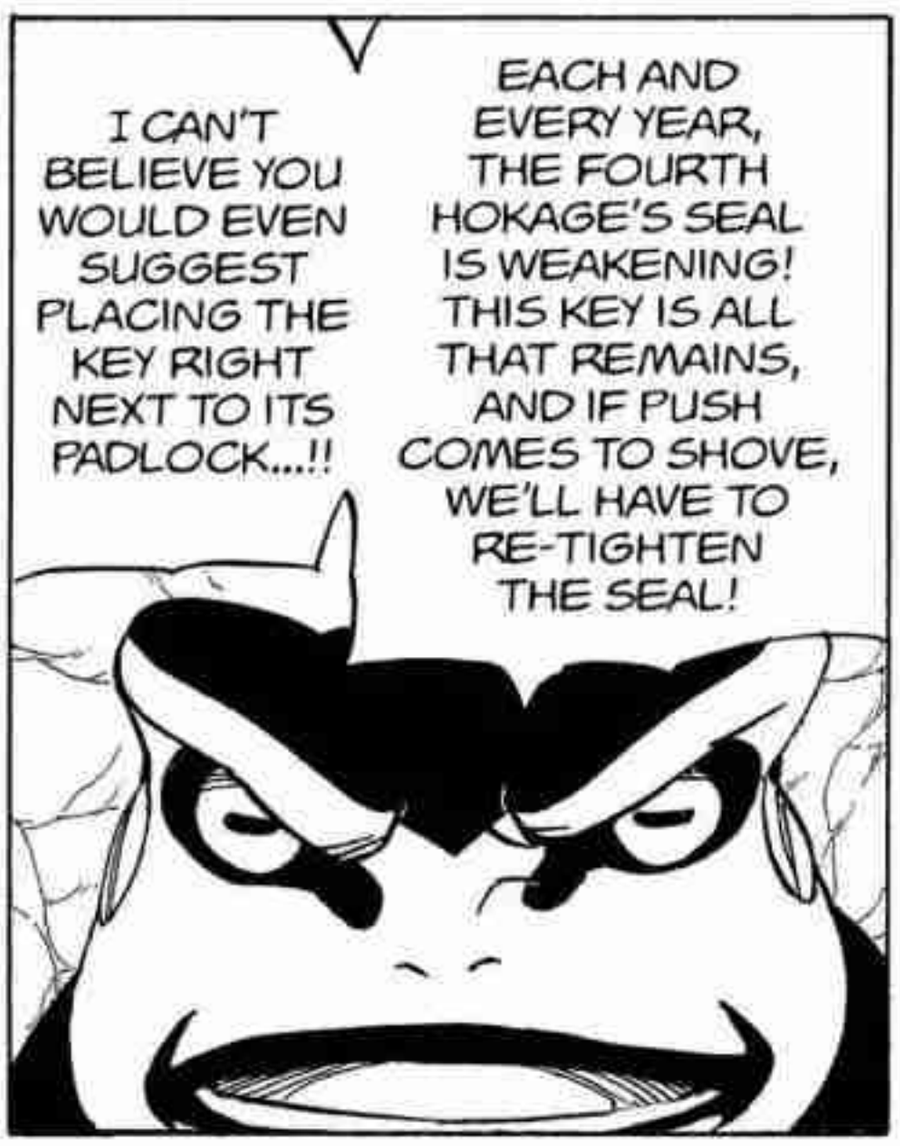

FLAP

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE?
FRRRRL

THERE!
TMP

!!

...BUT IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ME, GO STORE YOURSELF INSIDE NARUTO.
NOT LONG, I THINK...

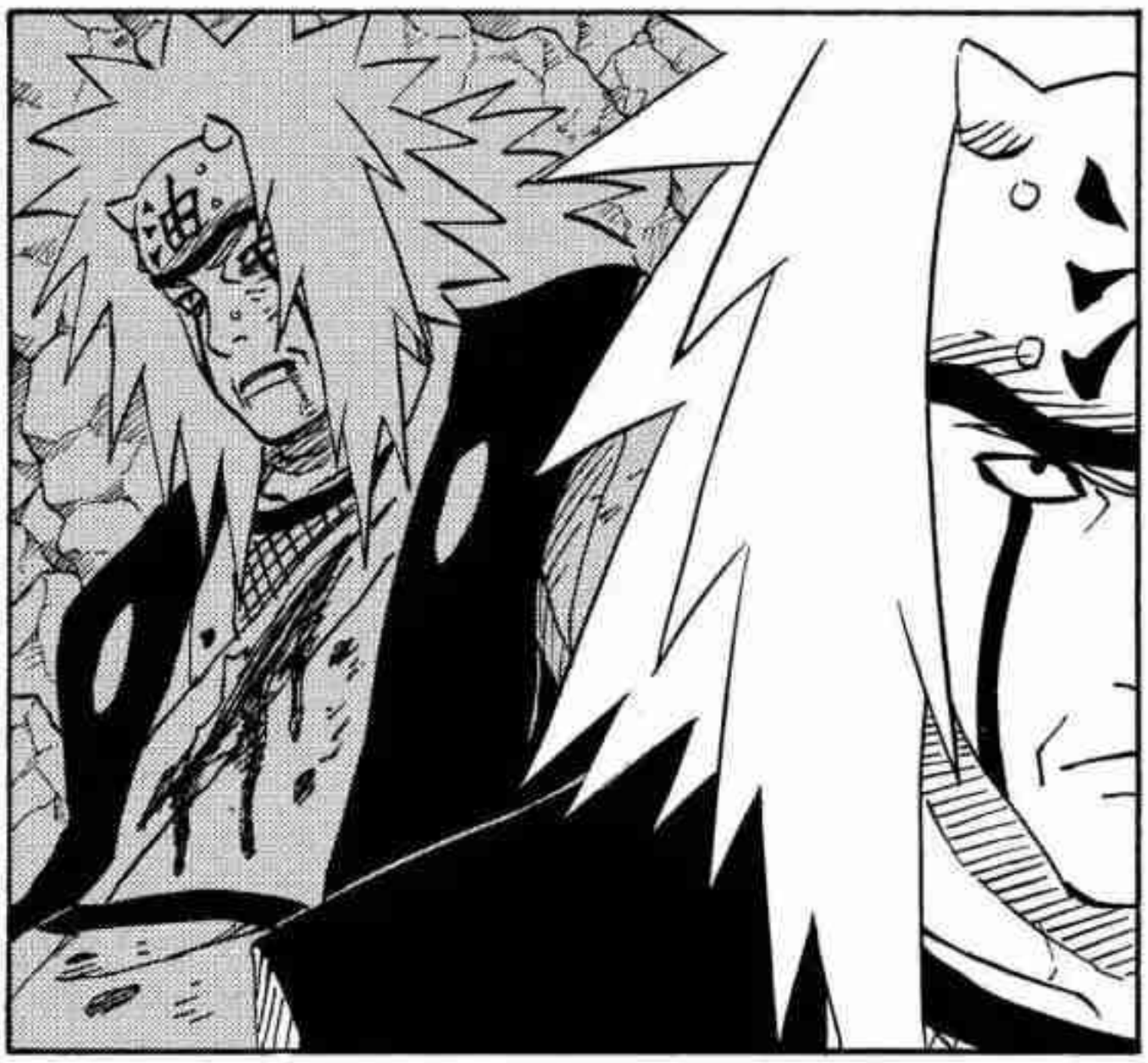

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD EVEN SUGGEST PLACING THE KEY RIGHT NEXT TO ITS PADLOCK...!!
EACH AND EVERY YEAR, THE FOURTH HOKAGE'S SEAL IS WEAKENING! THIS KEY IS ALL THAT REMAINS, AND IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, WE'LL HAVE TO RE-TIGHTEN THE SEAL!

YOU KNOW THAT THE KEY THAT CORRESPONDS TO NARUTO'S EIGHT-SIGNED SEAL IS TRANSCRIBED ON MY BELLY!
WHAT THE?!!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU SWEET-TALKED ME...
...INTO LOOSENING THE TETRAGRAM SEAL!
IT'S TOO SOON!

AND YET MINATO BEQUEATHED THAT KEY TO US... SO IT WAS MEANT TO EVENTUALLY GO BACK TO NARUTO.
油

NO, I HAVEN'T... BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THAT MINATO ENTRUSTING ME WITH THIS *SPELL KEY*...



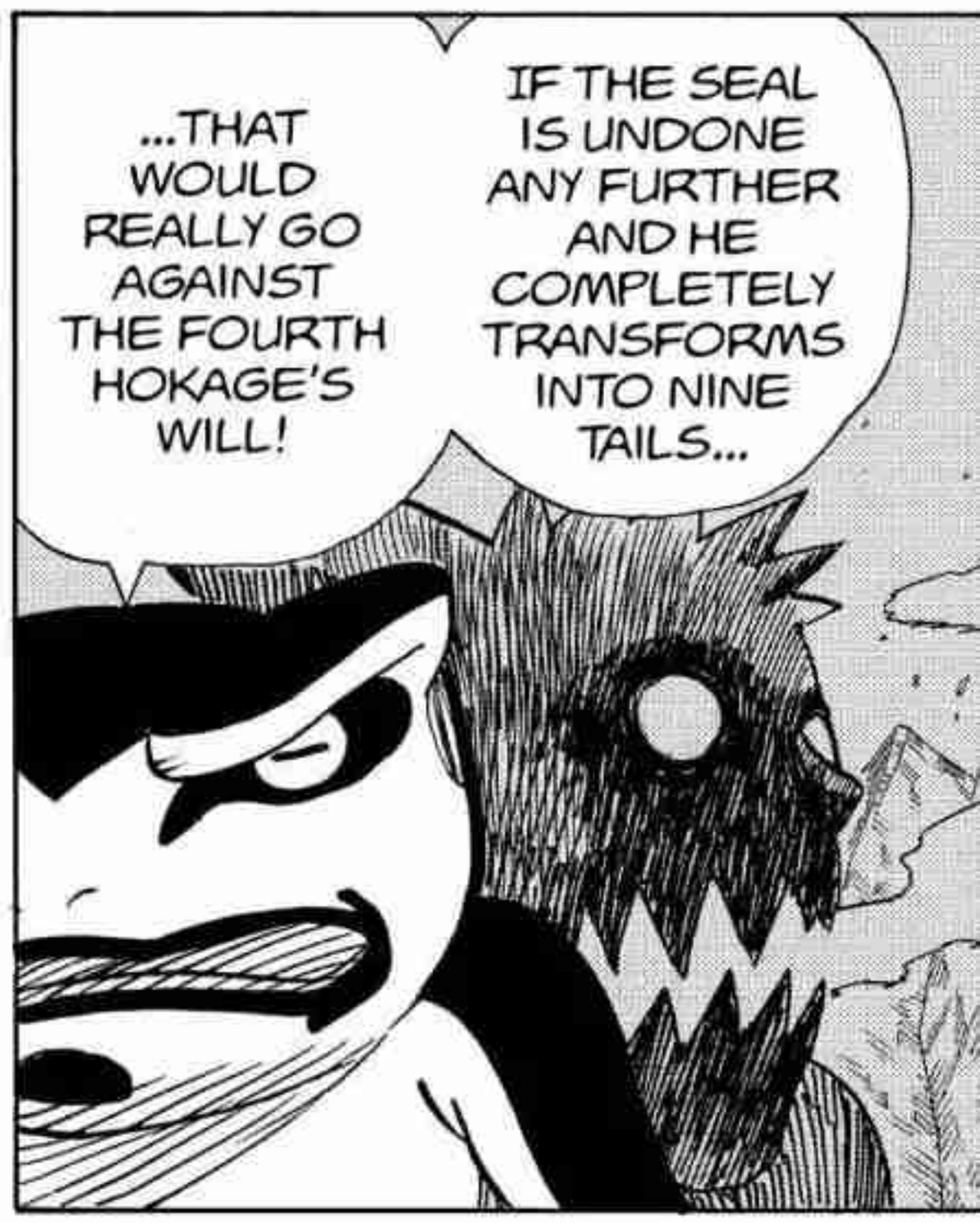
YOU REALLY THINK NARUTO REQUIRES SUCH A JUTSU?!

...INDICATES HIS WILL TO HAVE NARUTO COMPLETE THAT JUTSU ONE DAY.

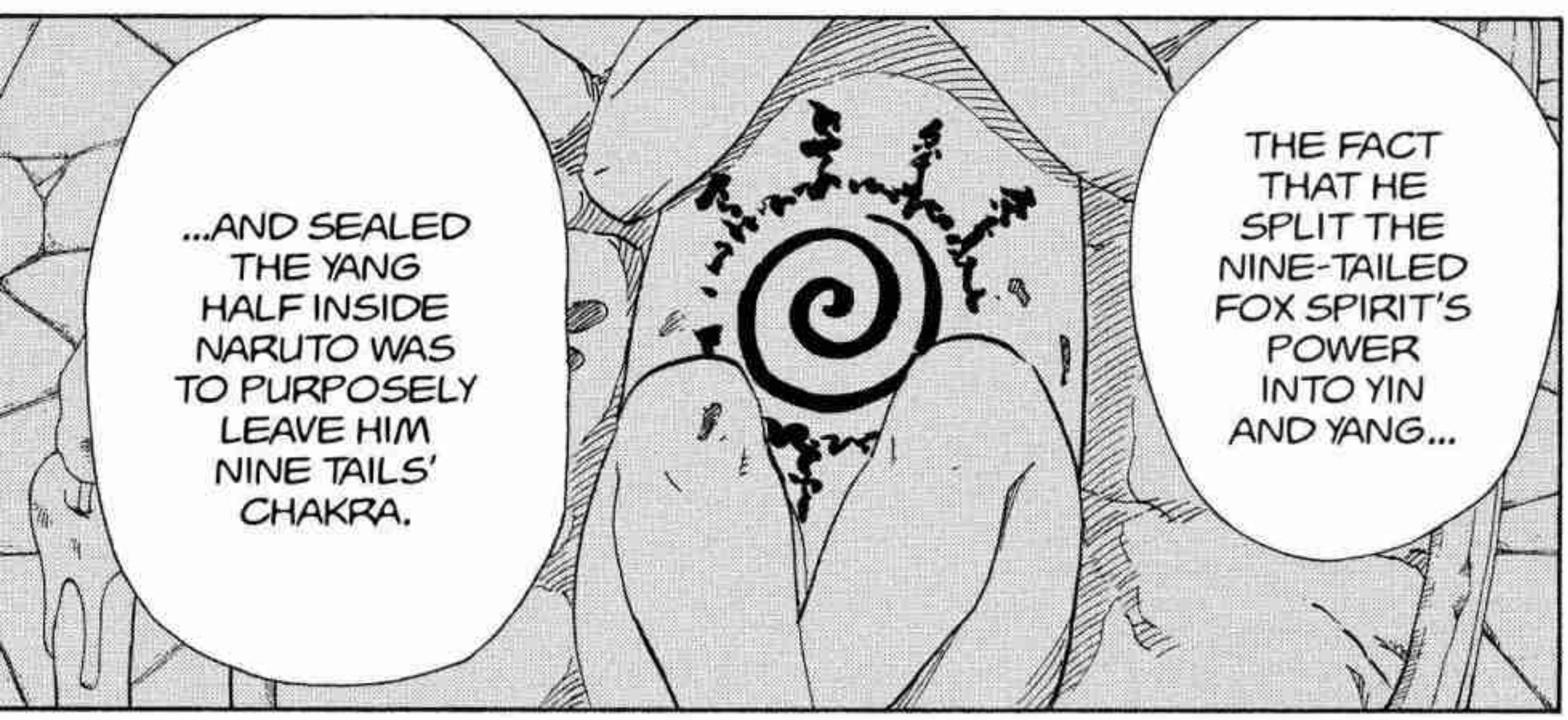
...BY THE NINE TAILS' CHAKRA, WHICH THEN LEAKED OUT IN LARGE AMOUNTS AND TOOK OVER NARUTO!

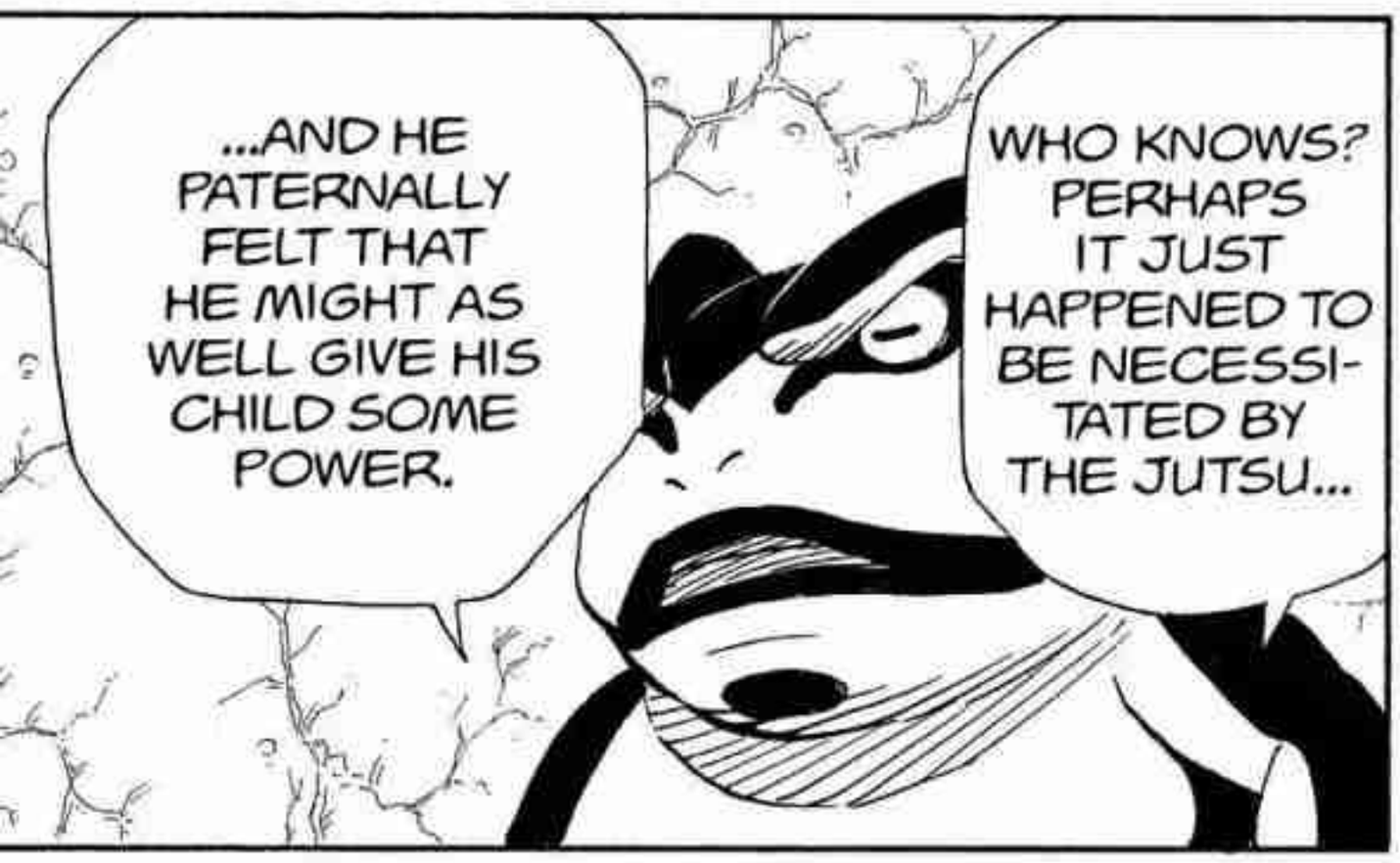
LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED ALREADY-- MERELY LOOSENING THE LOCK HAS CAUSED NARUTO'S CHAKRA TO BE PUSHED ASIDE...

THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE NINE TAILS' CHAKRA!



READ
THIS
WAY


...AND SEALED THE YANG HALF INSIDE NARUTO WAS TO PURPOSELY LEAVE HIM NINE TAILS' CHAKRA.
THE FACT THAT HE SPLIT THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT'S POWER INTO YIN AND YANG...


...AND HE PATERNALLY FELT THAT HE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE HIS CHILD SOME POWER.
WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS IT JUST HAPPENED TO BE NECESSI-TATED BY THE JUTSU...

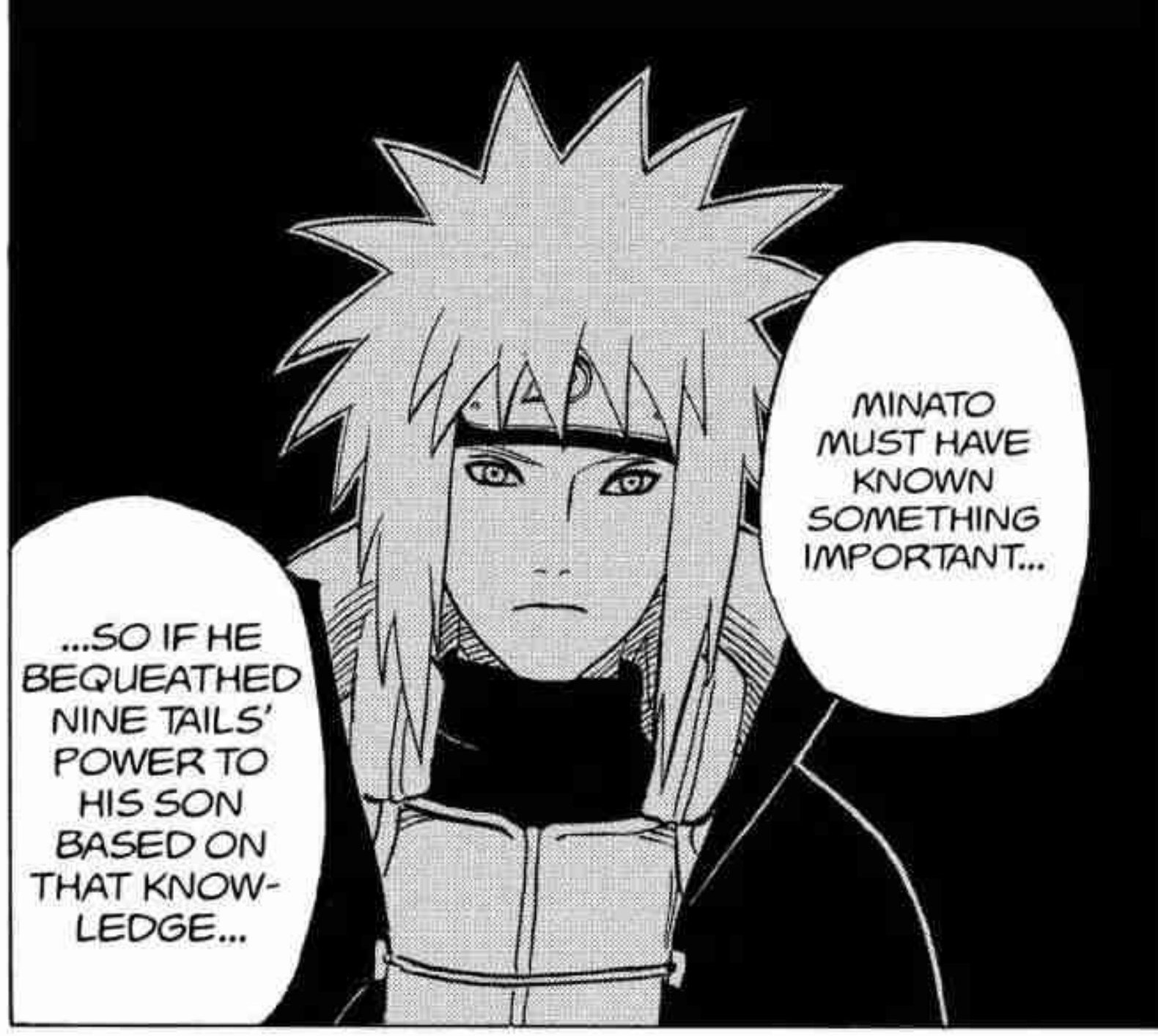
SO WHY IMPLANT...
...SOME-THING THAT DANGEROUS INTO HIS OWN SON?

HE NEVER DID ANYTHING WITHOUT GOOD REASON...
油

?

I WAS MINATO'S TEACHER, SO I KNOW...

I THINK YOU'RE READING TOO MUCH INTO IT...


...SO IF HE BEQUEATHED NINE TAILS' POWER TO HIS SON BASED ON THAT KNOW-LEDGE...
MINATO MUST HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING IMPORTANT...

THE LAST TIME THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT ASSAULTED KONOHA, IT WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN A FREAK ACCIDENT OF NATURE, BUT...

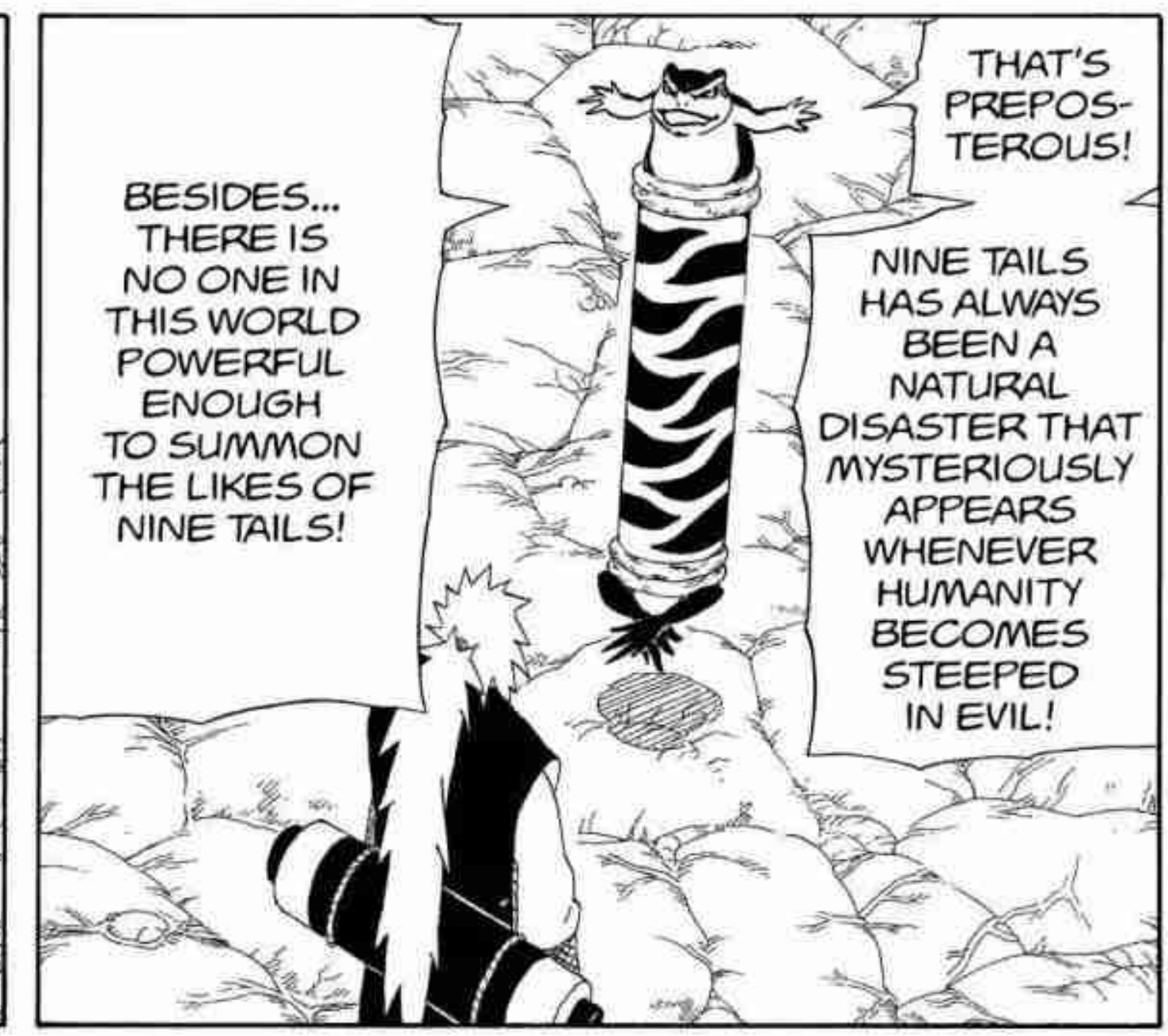
...

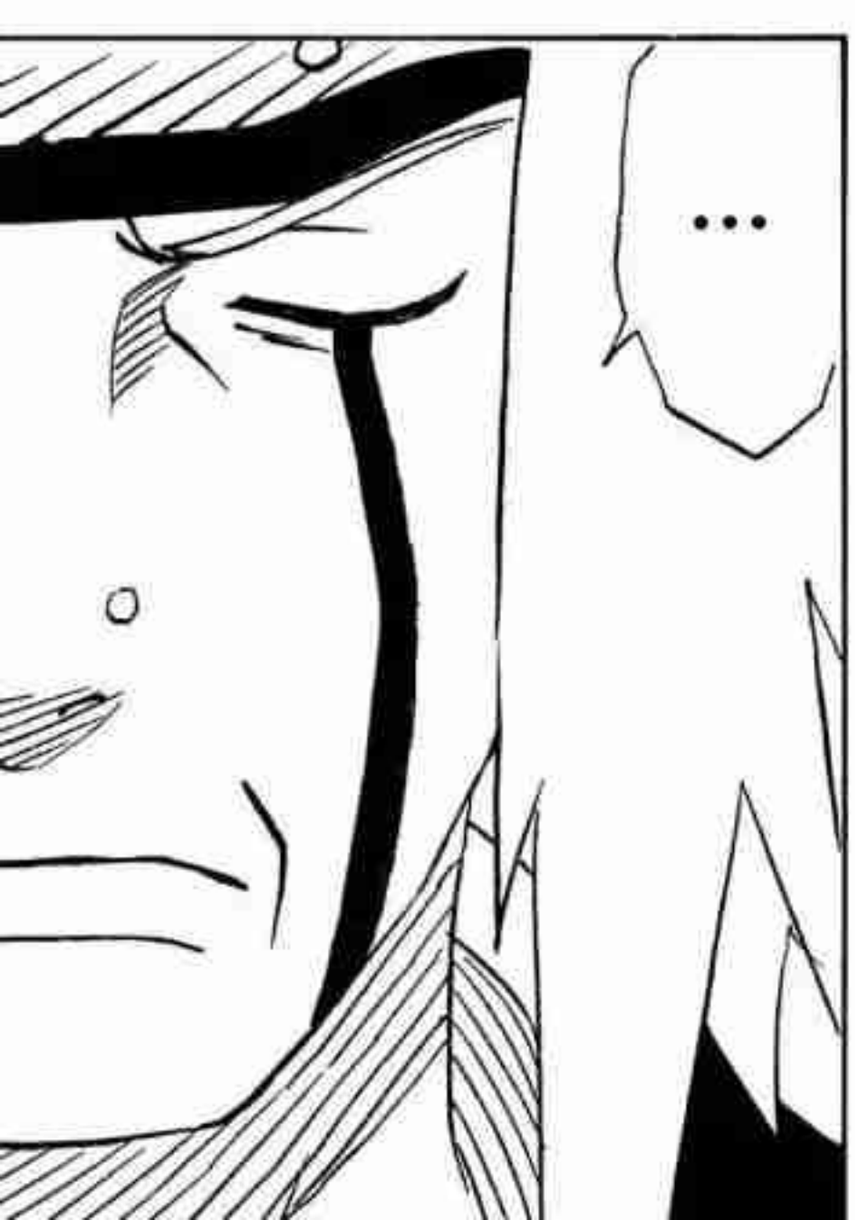
HMM?

...I'M NOW WONDERING IF THERE'S MORE TO IT ALL...

IT COULD HAVE BEEN MANUALLY SUMMONED...

WELL... THAT'S THE THING. THERE *IS* ONE PERSON...


BESIDES... THERE IS NO ONE IN THIS WORLD POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SUMMON THE LIKES OF NINE TAILS!
THAT'S PREPOS-TEROUS!
NINE TAILS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A NATURAL DISASTER THAT MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARS WHENEVER HUMANITY BECOMES STEEPED IN EVIL!


...

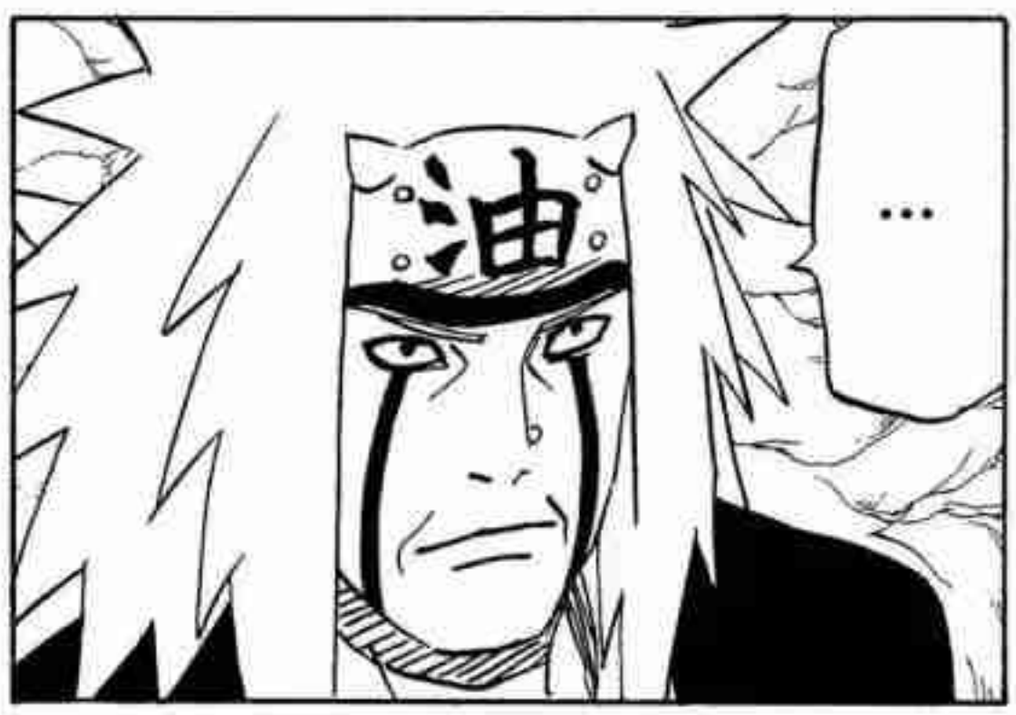
WHO?

...

?

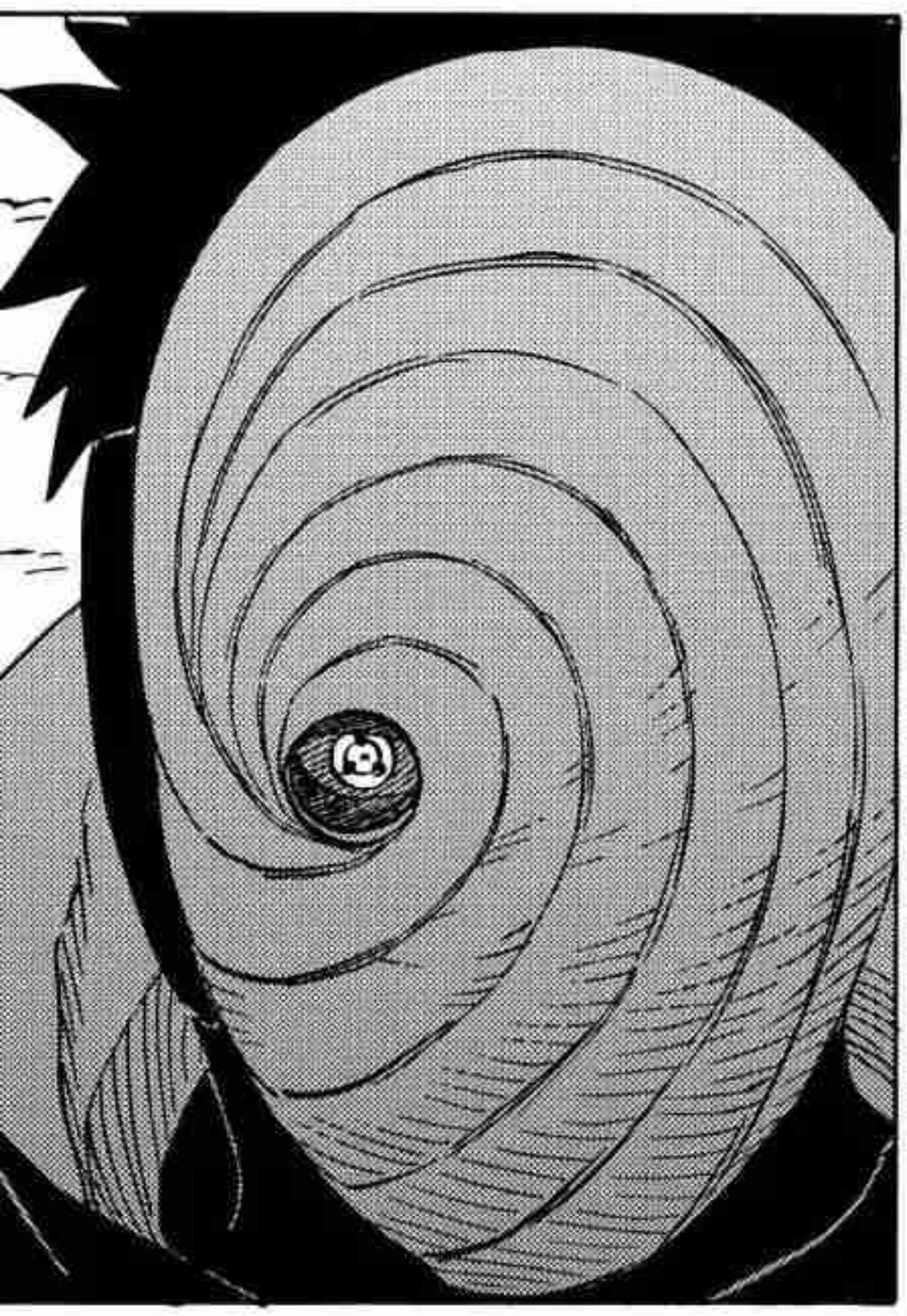
...UCHIHA MADARA.

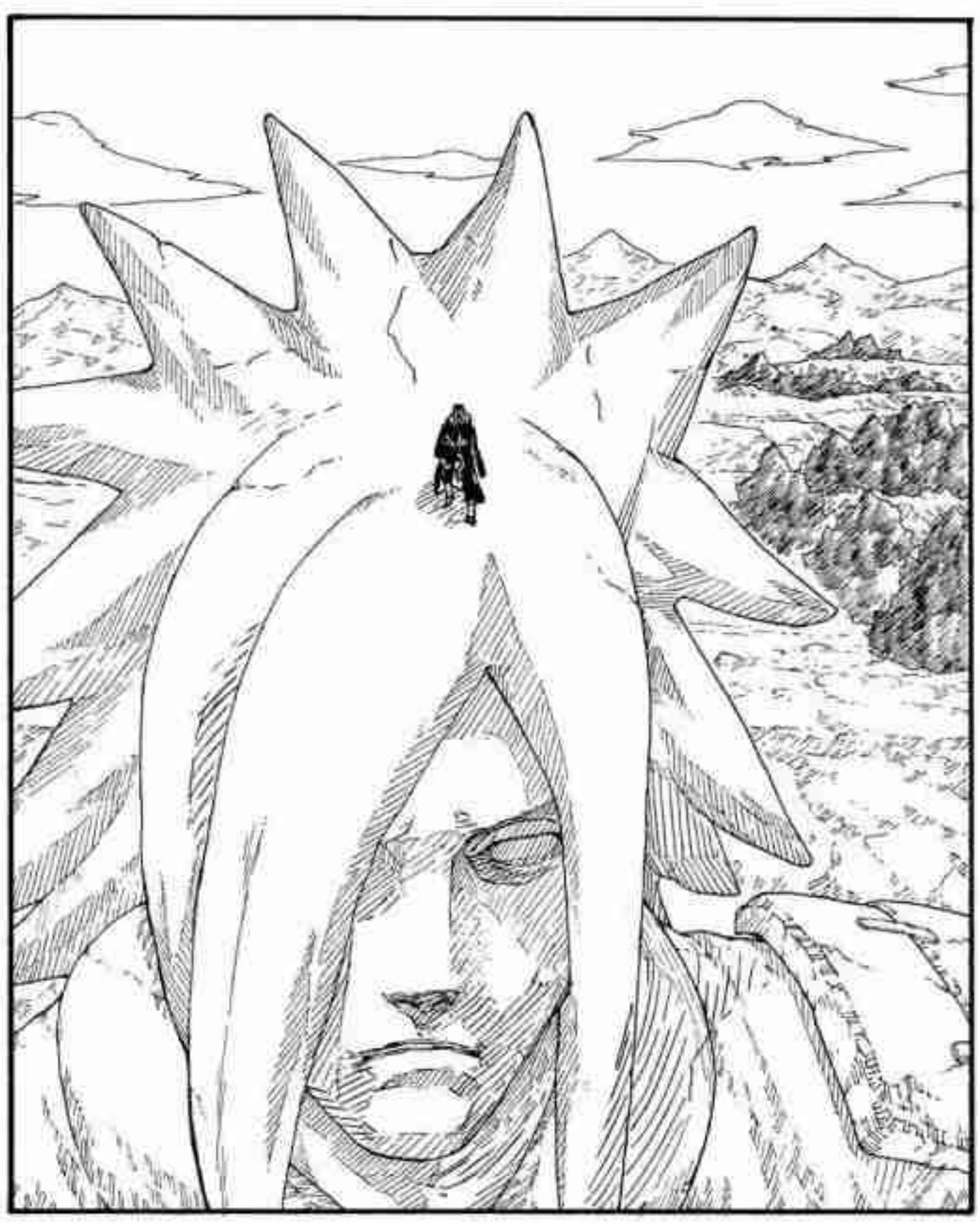
ONE OF THE UCHIHA CLAN FOUNDERS...



...THAT FILLS ME WITH UNEASE.

HOWEVER... I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING...





Number 371: Old Acquaintances!!

YOU ARE QUITE SOMETHING, SASUKE.

...IS TO SEE IF AT THE NEXT SHEDDING HE REMAINS A SNAKE, OR TRANSFORMS INTO A HAWK.

ALL THAT'S LEFT...

HE'S COMING ALONG NICELY.

HAIIEE!

READ
THIS
WAY

IGNORE IT. FORGE AHEAD!

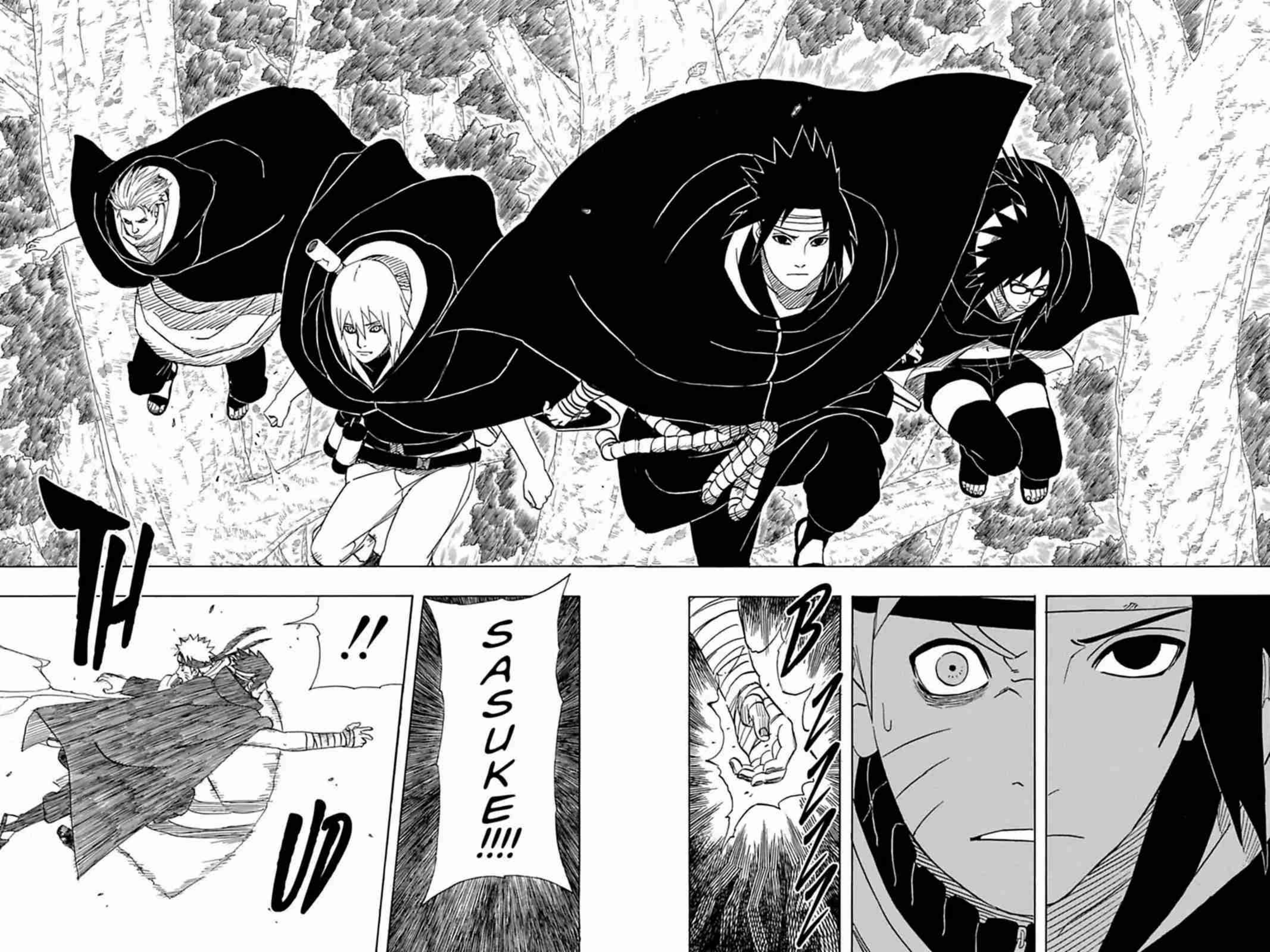
...SASUKE?
SHOULD WE CHANGE COURSE...

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
I SENSE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF THE SAME CHAKRA!

SHUNN SHUNN

I WASN'T LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING ANY ALTER-ATIONS.
GOOD.

FSSH
!
TNP


TH
UD
!!
SASUKE!!!!
BZZZZZ

BOOF

SUCH AN ANNOYING FELLOW.
NARUTO, EH...

A SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER.
WHAT WAS THAT?!

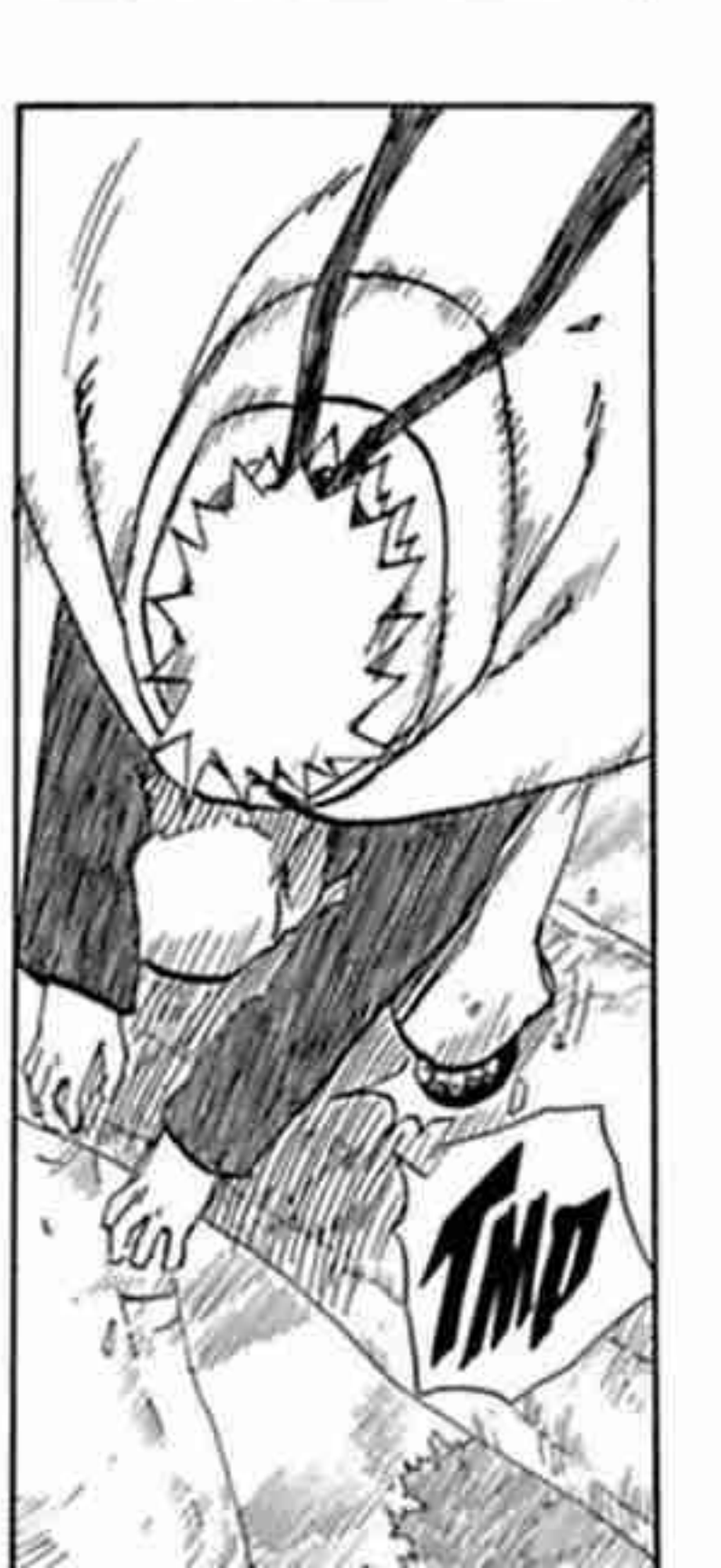
HA! FOUND HIM!!

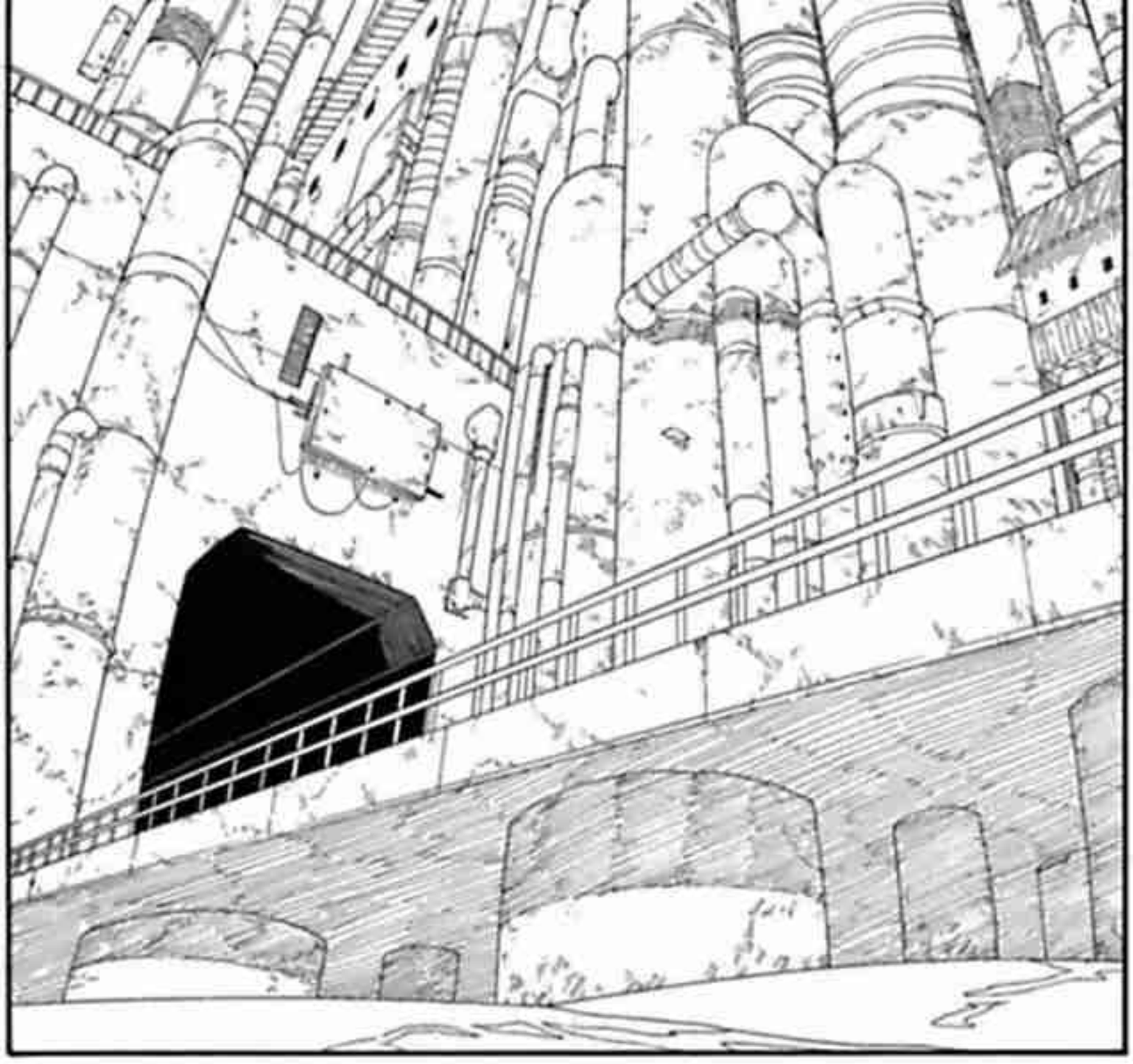
!

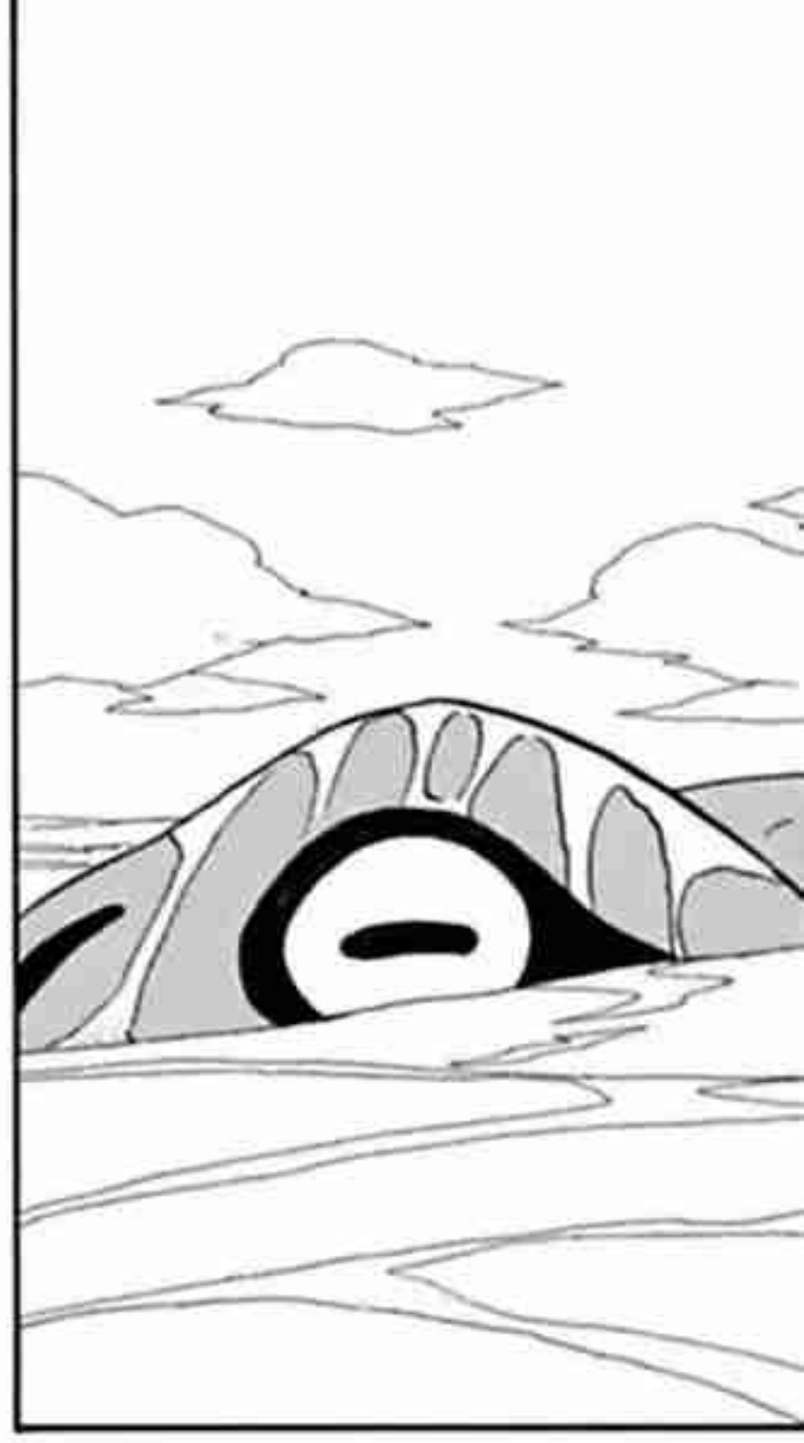
WHICH WAY?!
GOOD JOB!

I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY THIS TIME, SASUKE!!

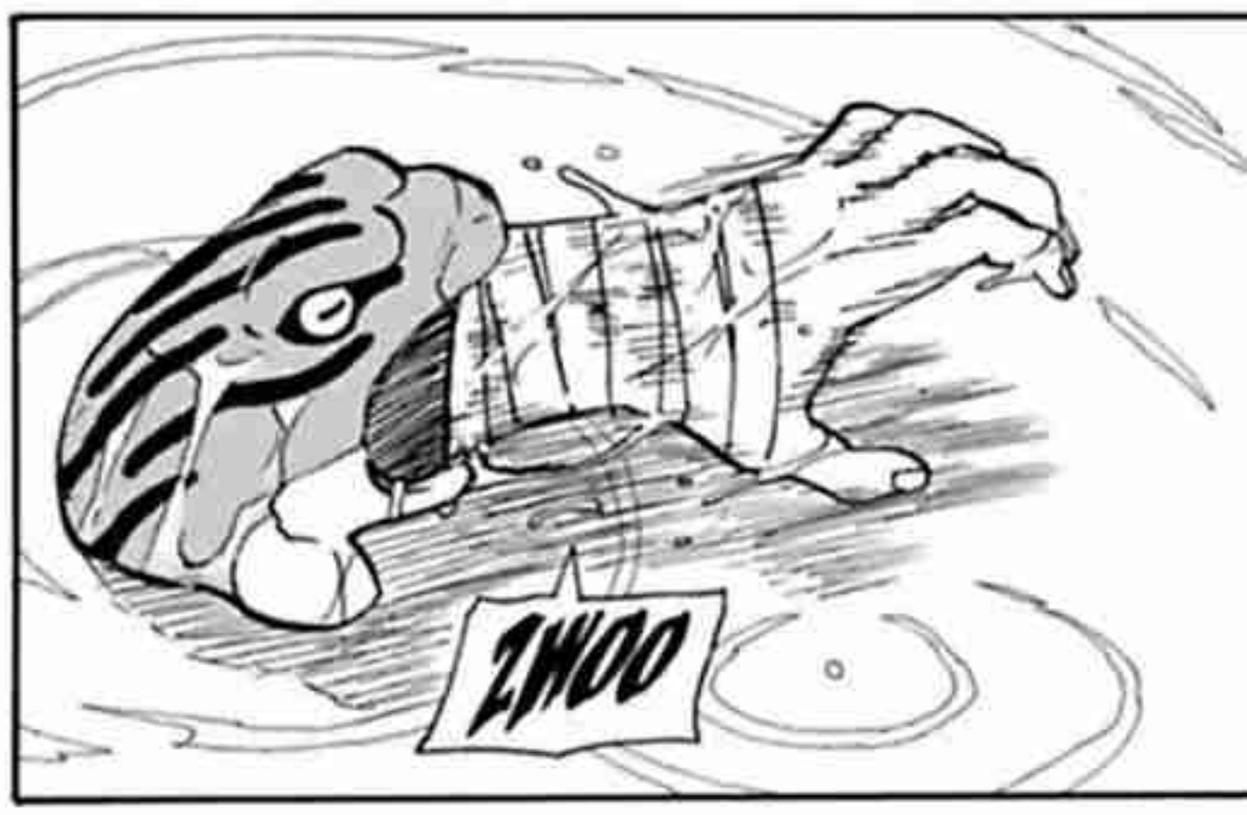
SHUUU
THIS WAY!!


TMP



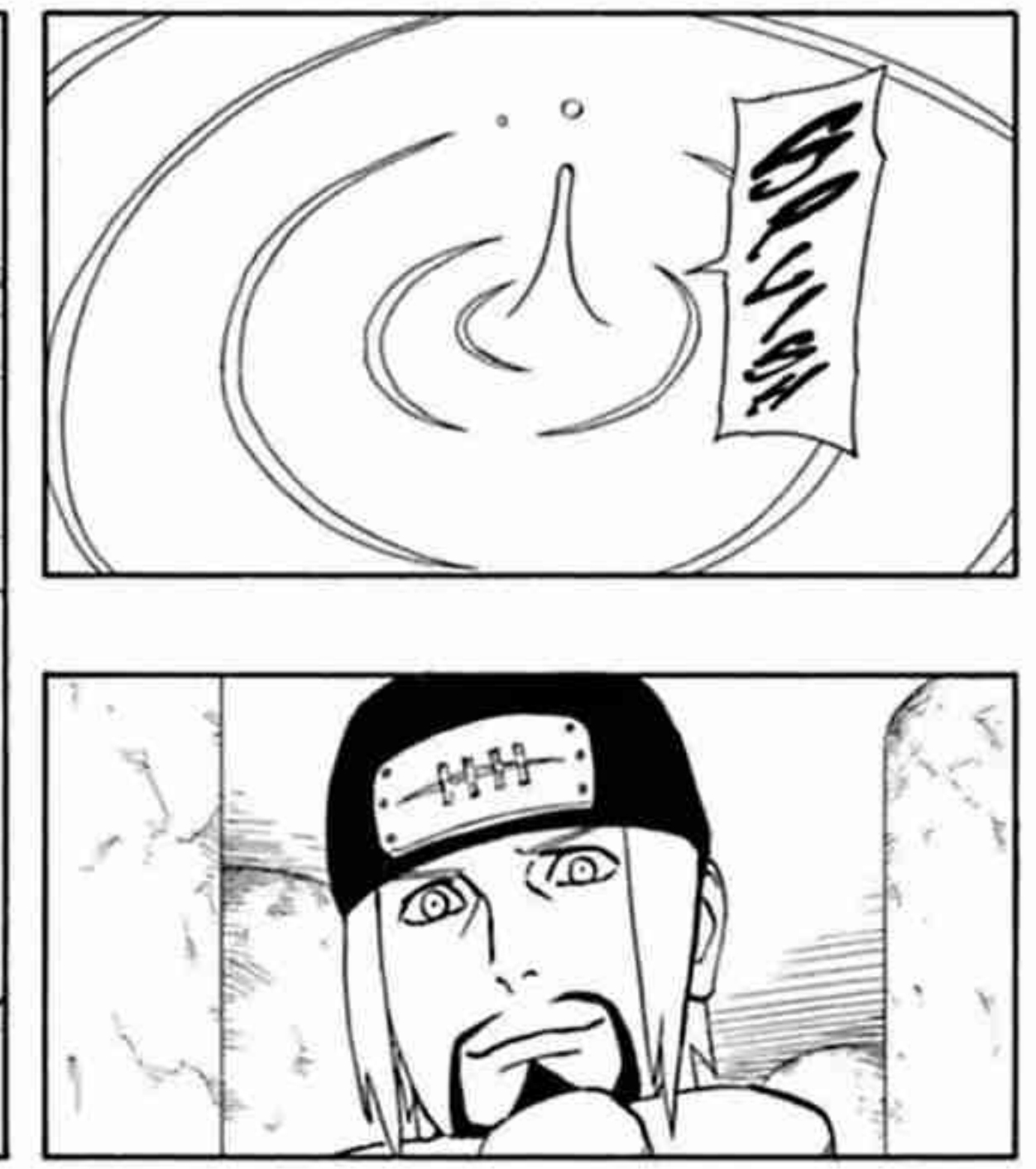


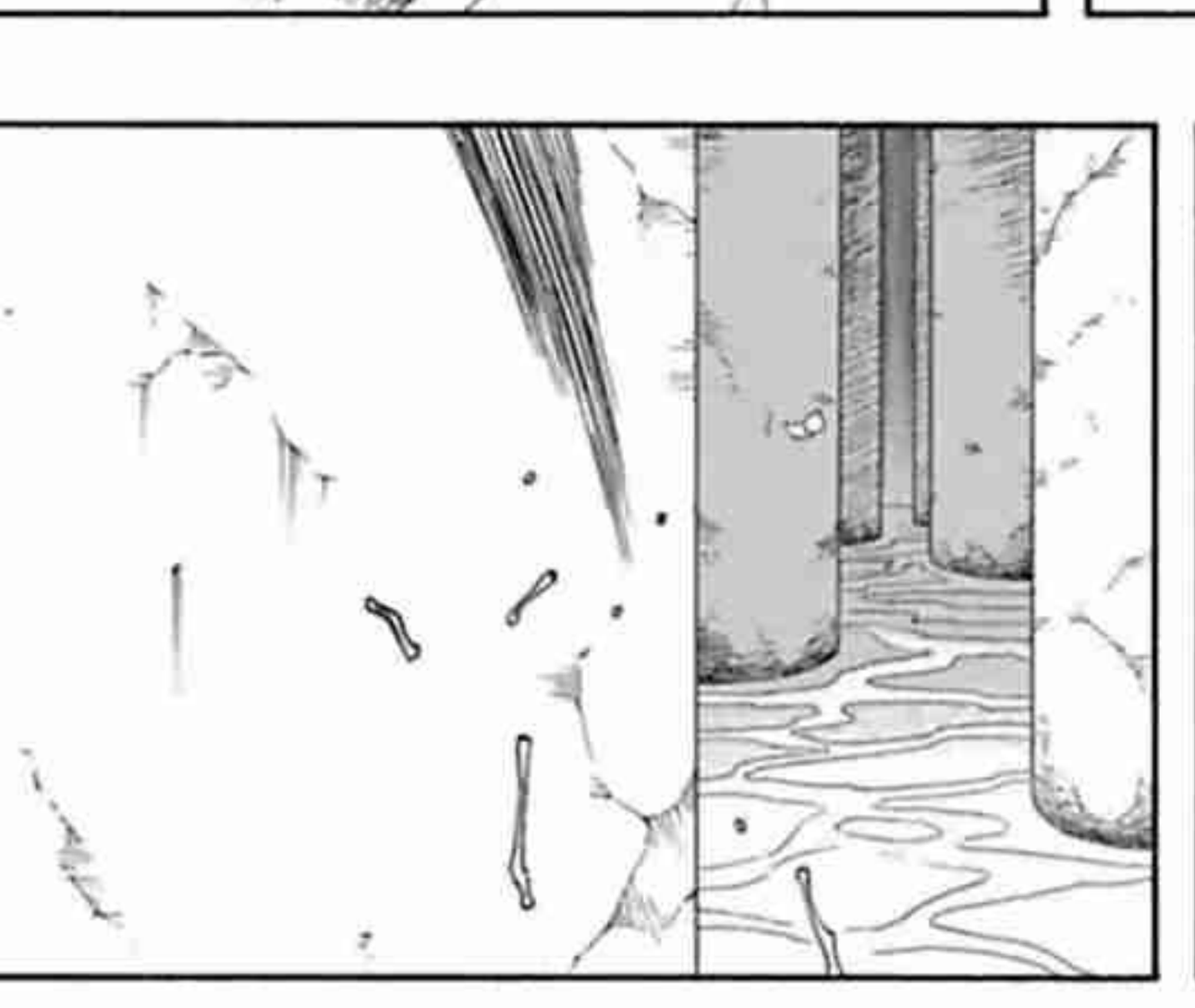
YOU RETURN TO KONOHA.


ZHOO

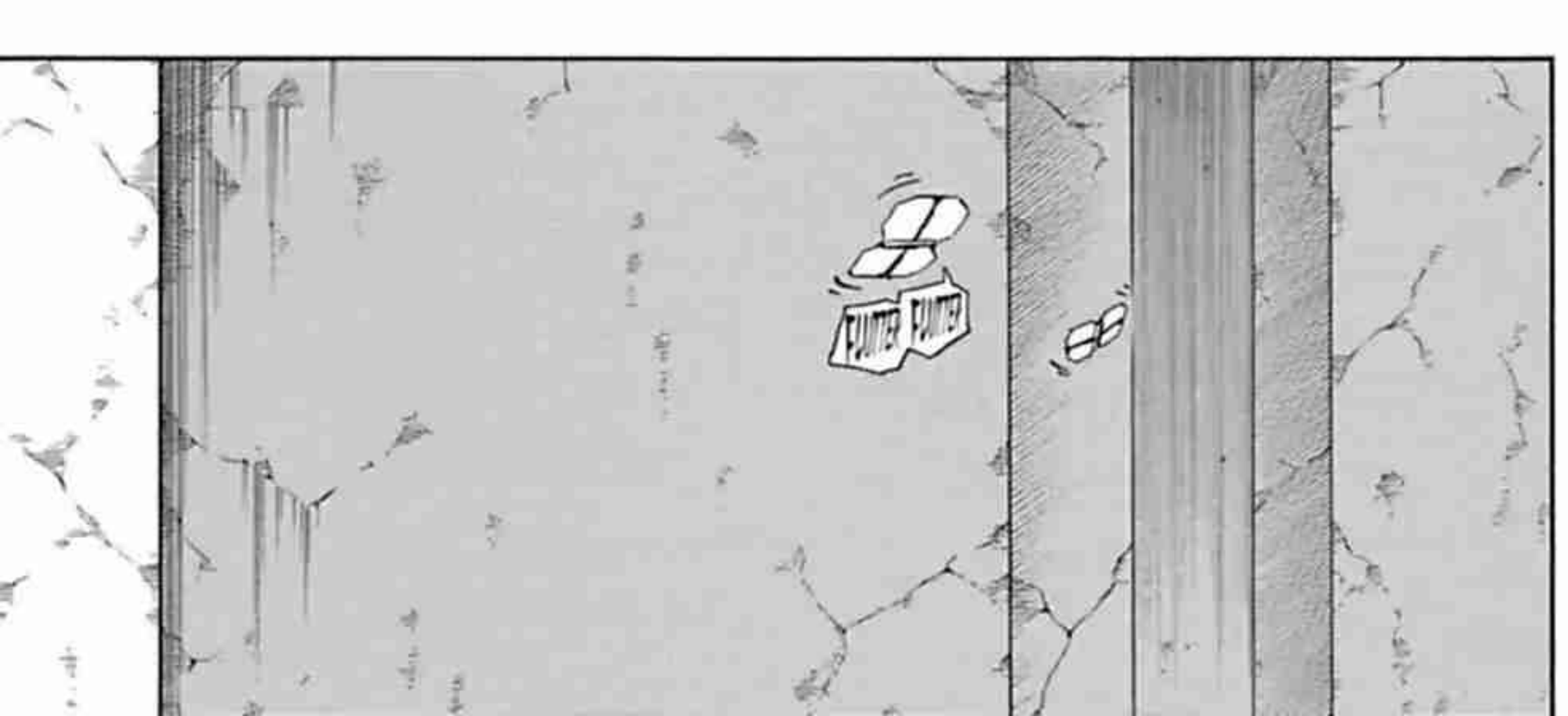
AND WHEN YOU GET THERE, GO STRAIGHT TO IBIKI.
HE ALREADY KNOWS YOU'RE COMING.
RIBBIT!

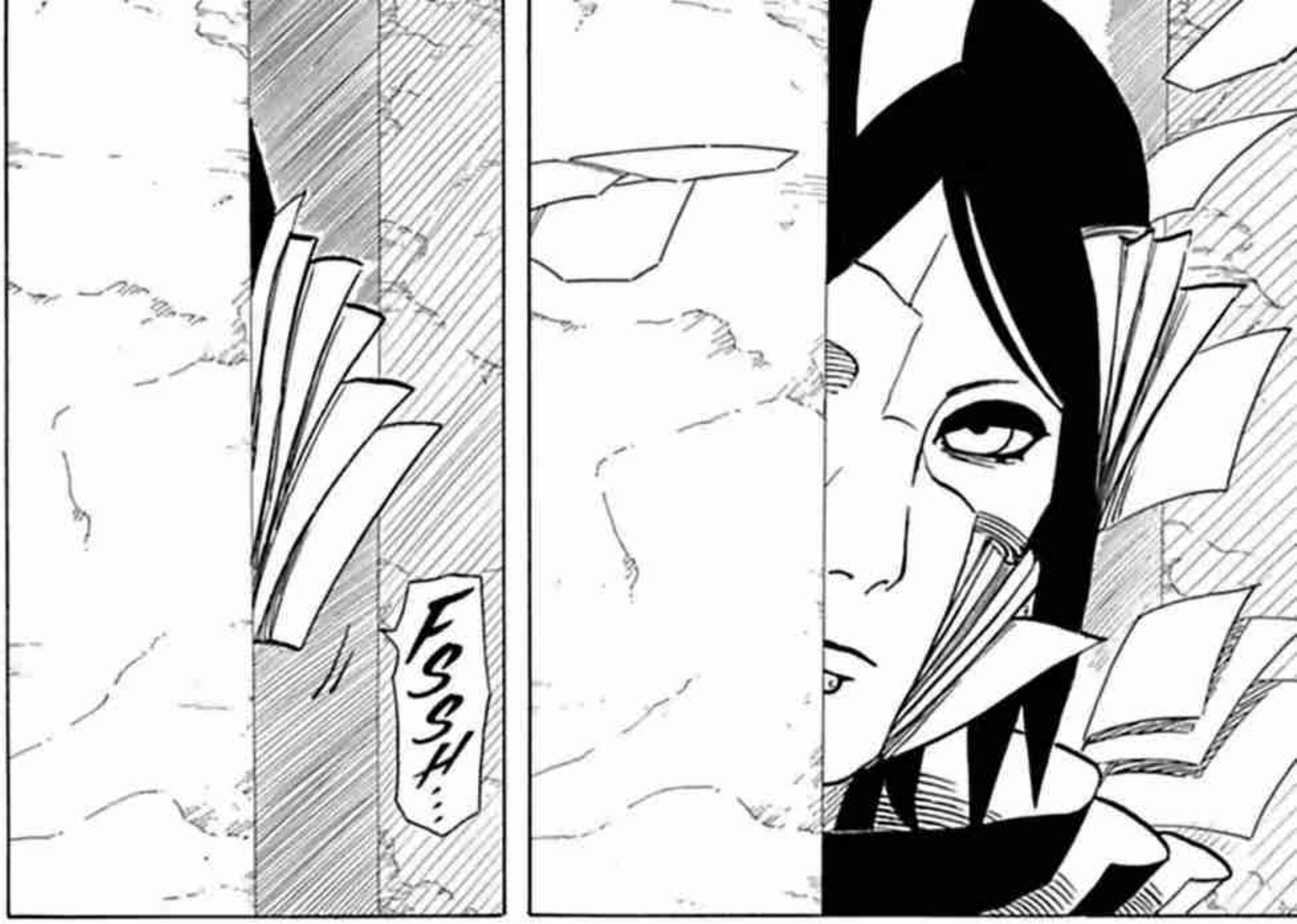
AYXY
HOPE THIS WILL WORK.

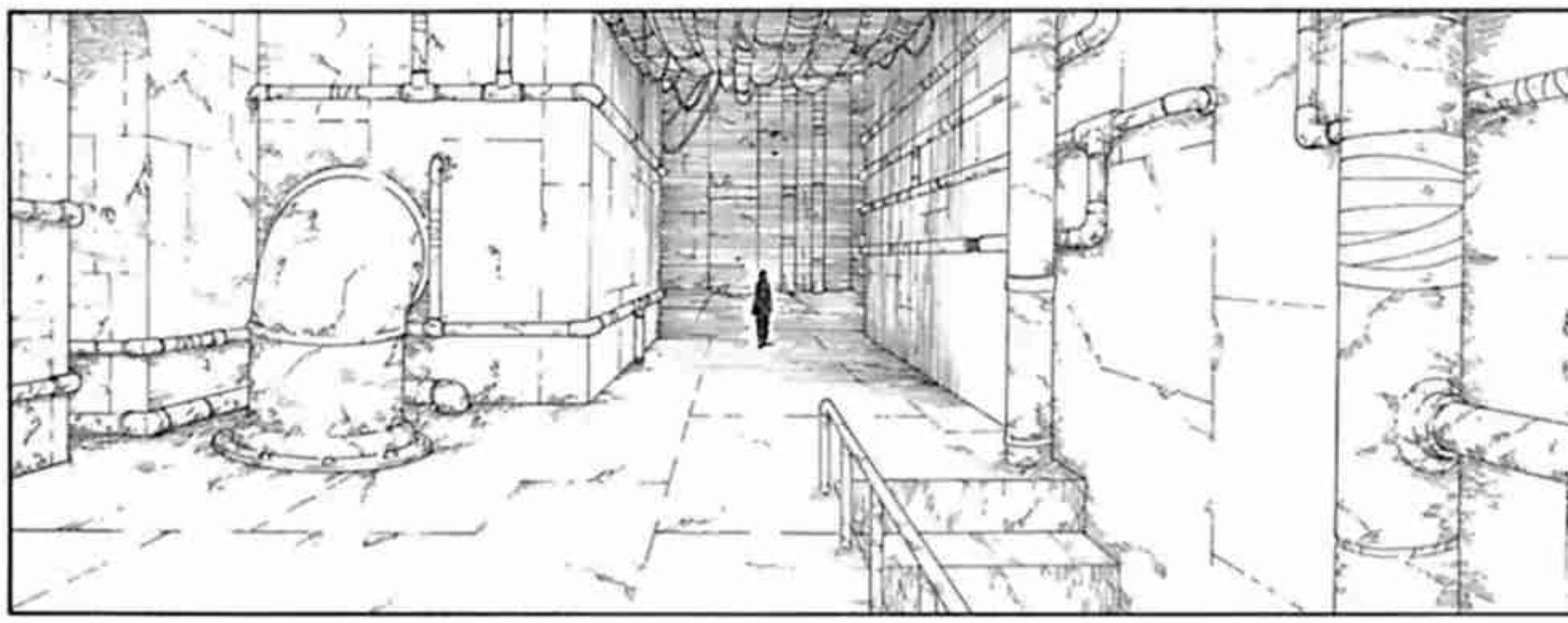

SPLASH

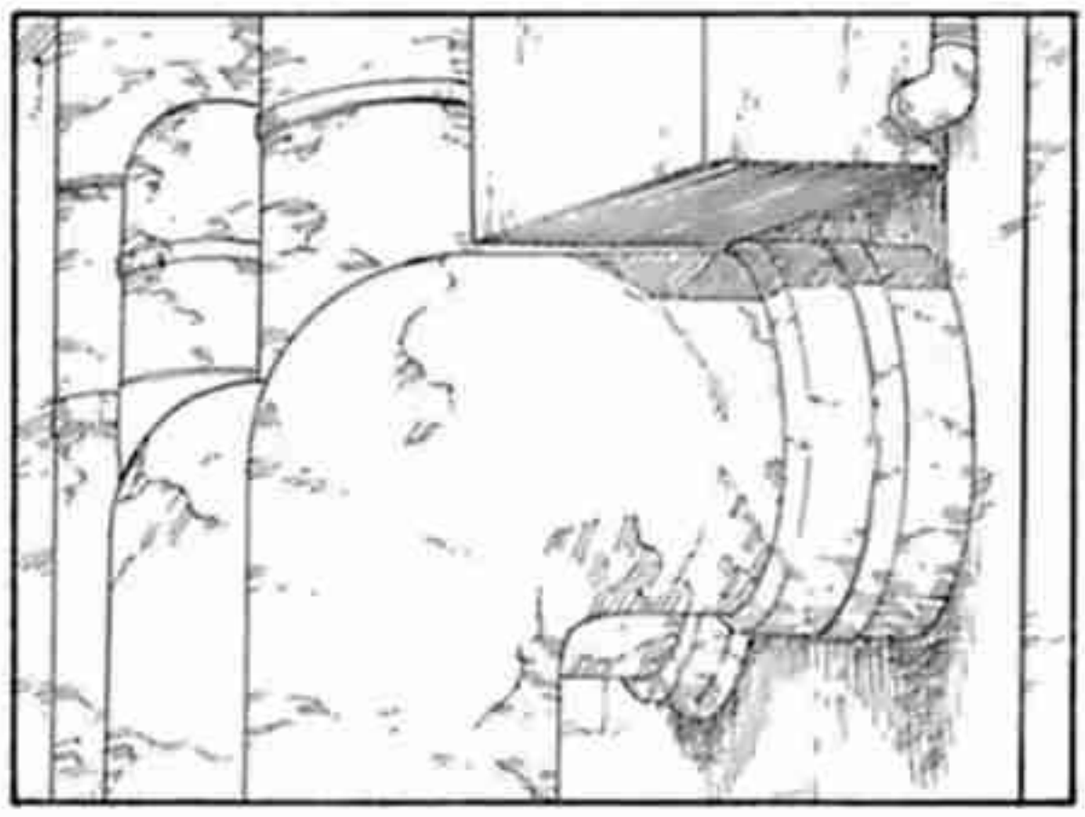


LET'S GO!


PUNTER
PUNTER


FSSH...



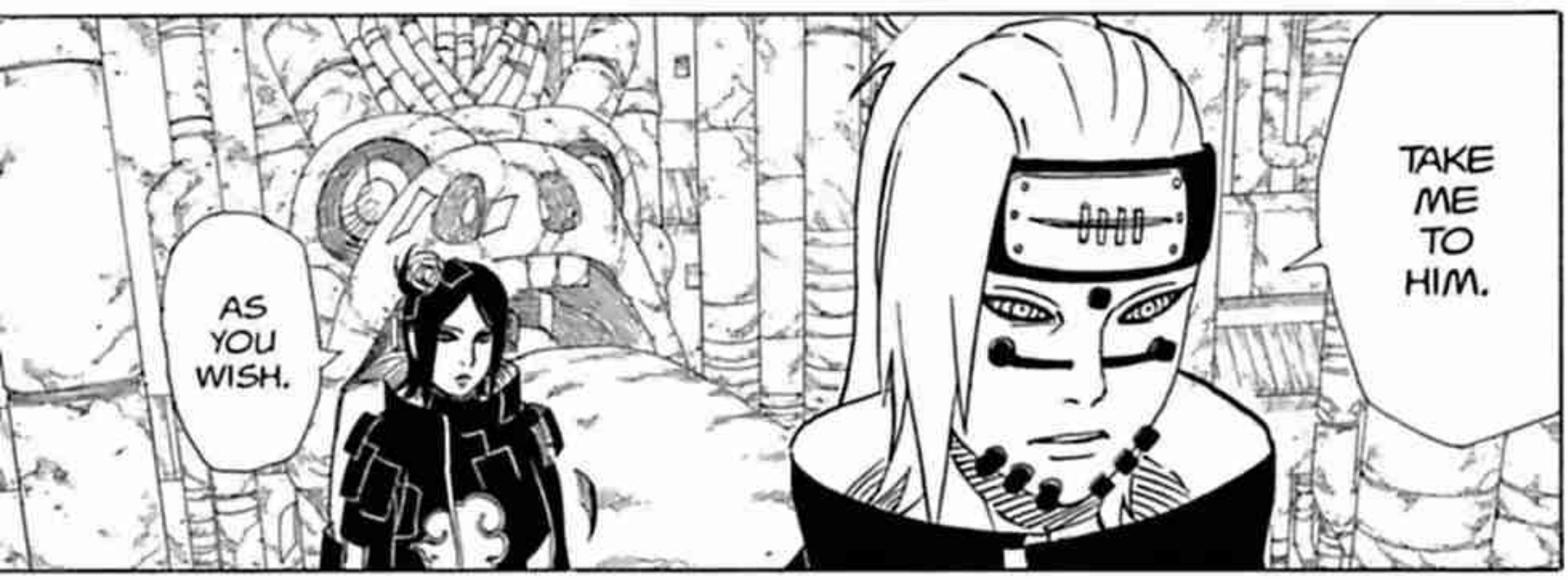


READ THIS WAY
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
INDO...
...
...IT'S JIRAIYA.
WELL?

I SEE... MASTER JIRAIYA, EH.

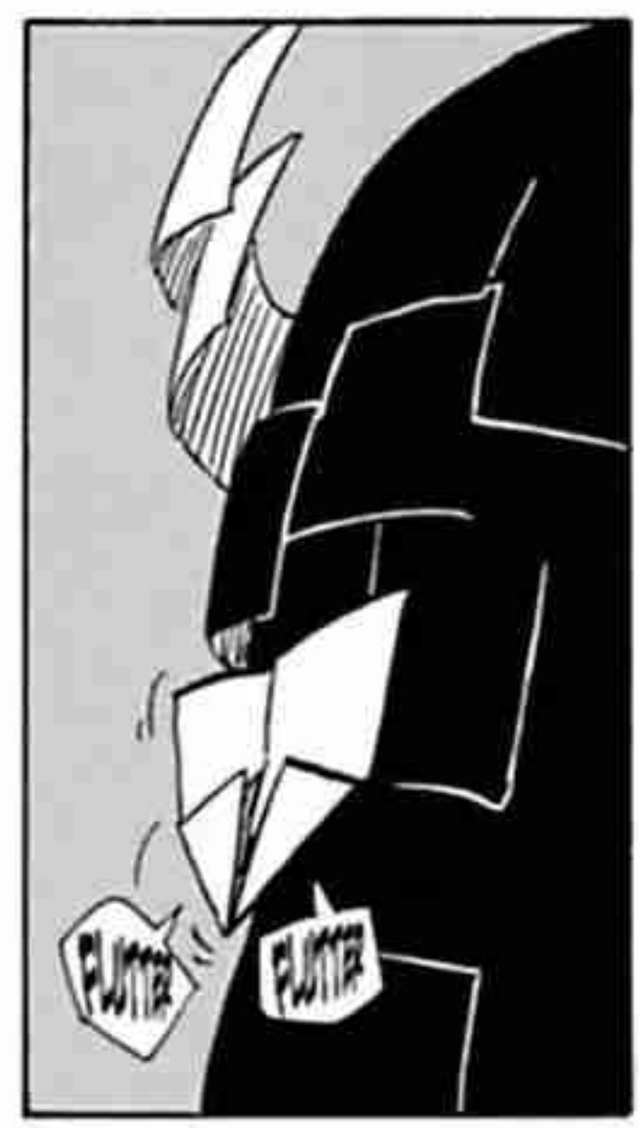
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY LINGERING ATTACHMENT TO HIM, DO YOU?
I CAME FORTH IN THIS BODY IN ORDER TO KILL THE INVADER.
KILL HIM, OF COURSE.

WHAT NEXT, PAIN?


AS YOU WISH.
TAKE ME TO HIM.

PAIN... THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO TOO...
I CAN HANDLE HIM ON MY OWN...

FLUTTER


FLUTTER
FLUTTER

SHKK

SWISH

ELIMINATE HIM IF YOU CAN, THEN.

FLIT

!

SHW SHW

!

READ THIS WAY
WHA?!
WAAH!
SWOOSH
THAP
THAP
UNNH ...
FWIK
FRRL...
FWIK
ZWOOO
SHWIP
SHWIP
SHWIP
SHWIP

PWIF

FIRE STYLE! FLAME BOMBS!!

FIA AE AO

TOAD SUBJUGATION, ART OF THE MANIPULATED SHADOW, HUH...

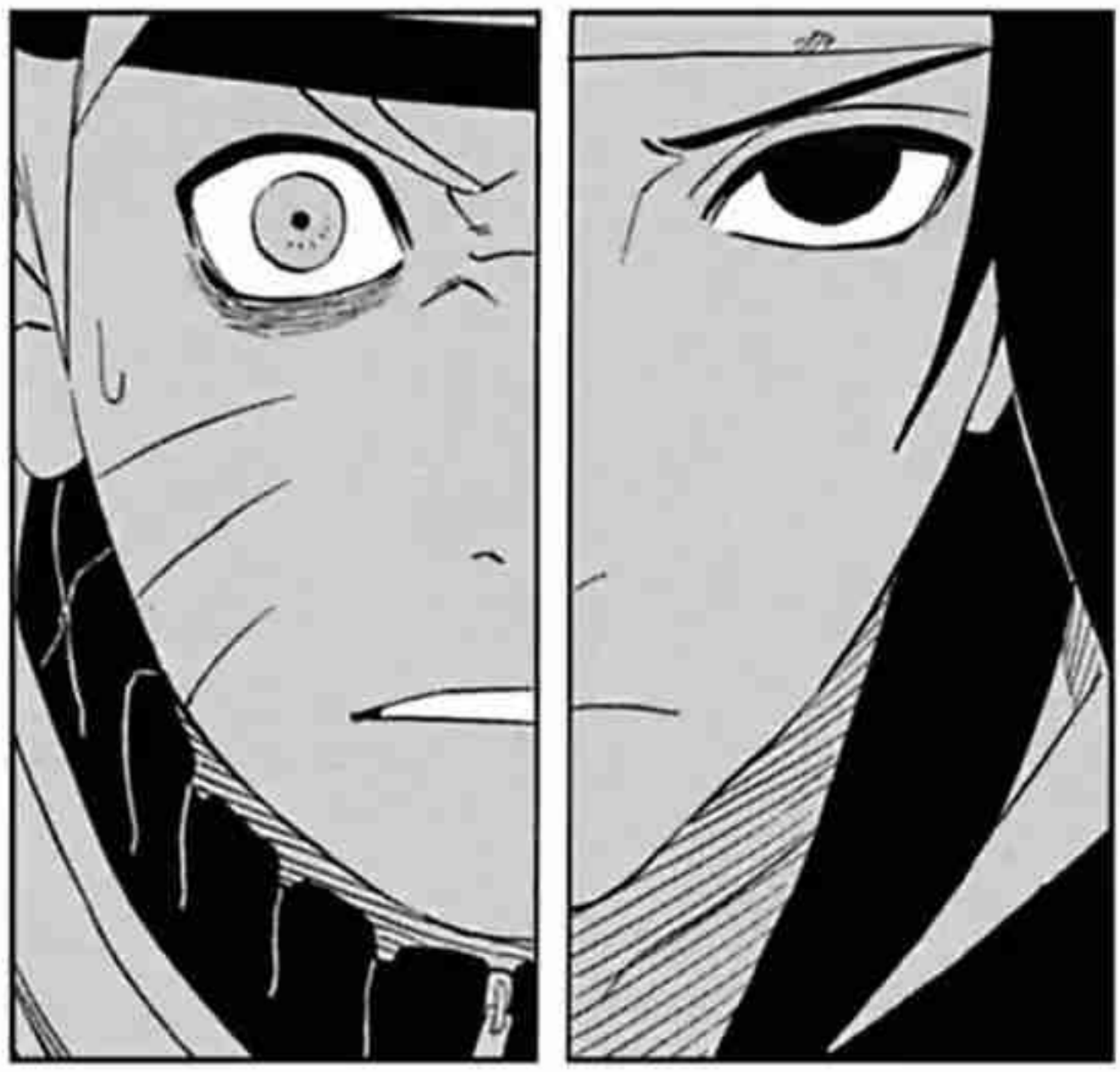
BO OF

HAUK HAUK
ZZZ
油

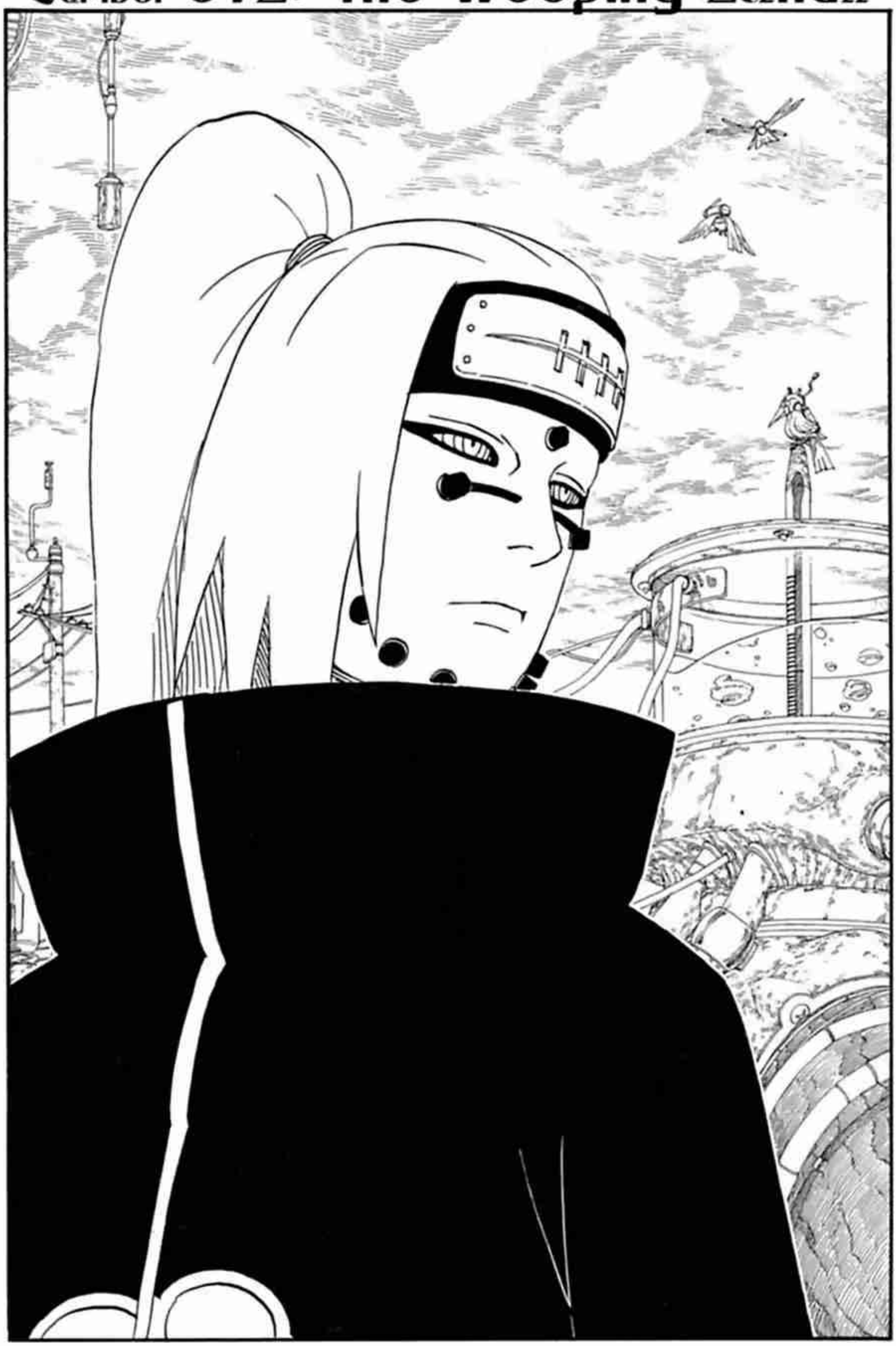
...BUT I NEVER IMAGINED I'D CATCH YOU.
I DANGLED SOME LURE HOPING TO DRAW OUT THIS PAIN FELLOW...
CLOMP

PLMP PLMP PLMP
PLISH

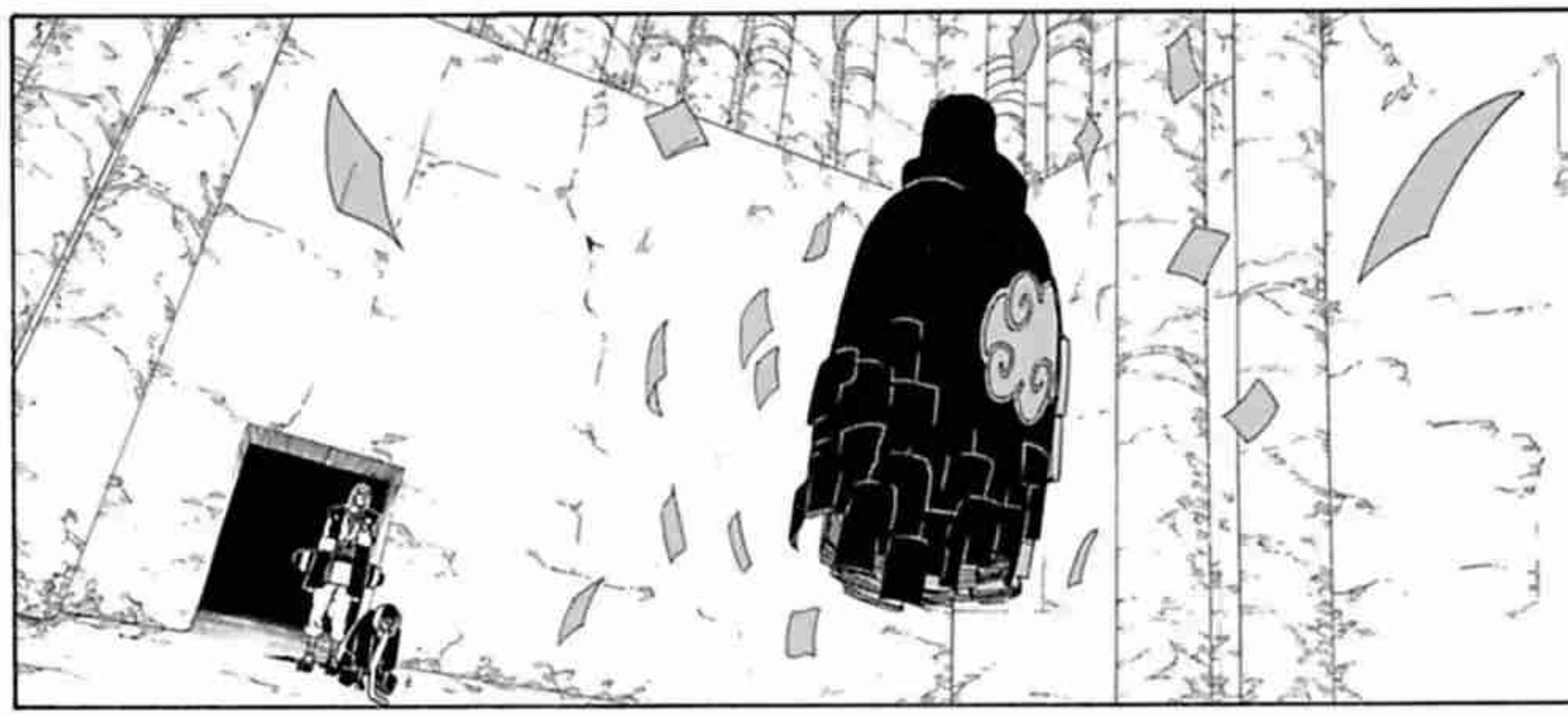
...BUT EVEN MORE, YOU'VE BECOME QUITE A CATCH, KONAN!
YOU'VE HONED YOUR JUTSU MAGNIFI-CENTLY...
油



Number 372: The Weeping Land!!



...EITHER WAY, I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BECOME SLIPS OF PAPER...
I'D HEARD YOU DIED...



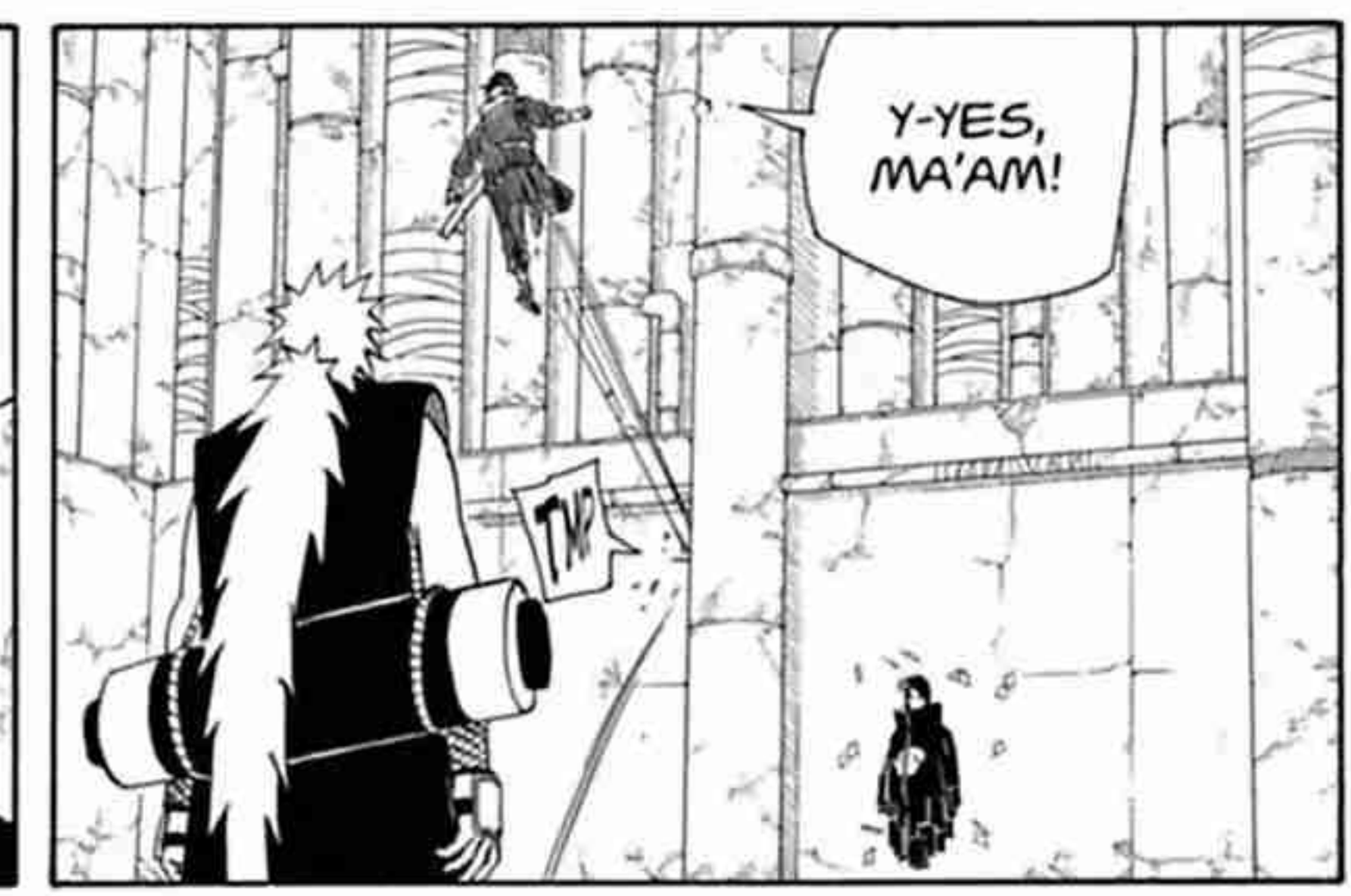
...
THP
FIRST GODS, NOW ANGELS, HUH...
...WHICH MEANS YOU'RE THE GO-BETWEEN FOR THIS SO-CALLED GOD, EH.

AAH... YOU'RE...!
YOU'RE THE MESSENGER LADY ANGEL...

STAY AWAY FROM HERE.

TH-THIS MAN IS AN INVADER!
PLEASE DEAL WITH HIM RIGHT NOW!
SHOOP

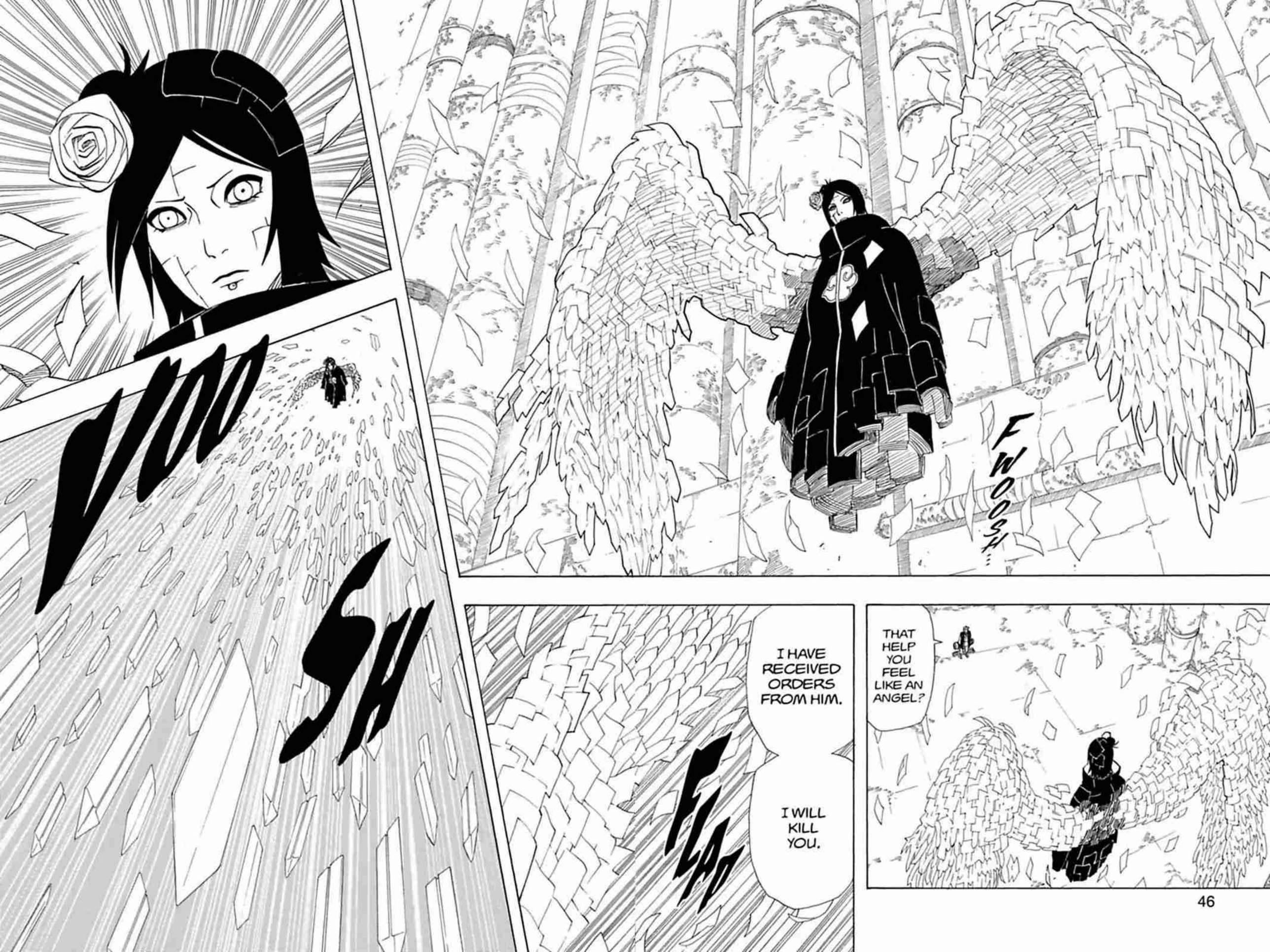
SO WHO OR WHAT IS PAIN?
油


Y-YES, MA'AM!
TNP

....!

FLUTTER FLUTTER

THIS DOES NOT CONCERN YOU, MASTER.


VOOO
SH
FWOOSH
I HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM HIM.
I WILL KILL YOU.
FLAP
THAT HELP YOU FEEL LIKE AN ANGEL?

THK THK THK THK THK THK

THK THK THK THK

GAMA YUDAN! TOAD OIL BOMBS!!

TAP

PUSH...

SPLAT

YOU'RE SOAKED IN OIL. SO YOU CAN'T PEEL APART!

FURL

!

WHOOSH

YOU WERE A SPECIAL, GENTLE CHILD WHO LOVED ORIGAMI...

油

...

JUST AS I SUSPECTED...

...

I GUESS THE RUMORS THAT ALL OF YOU SUFFERED AN UNTIMELY DEMISE WERE FALSE?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TWO?

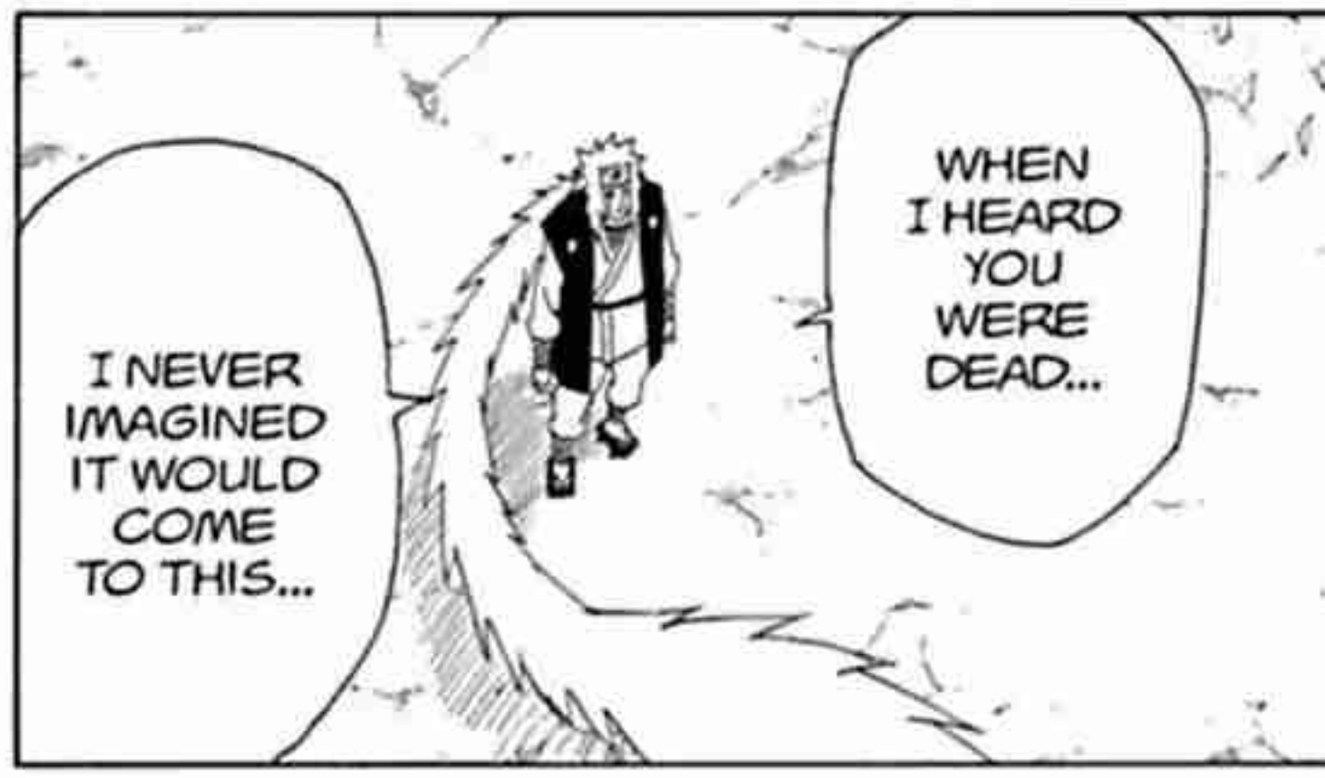
油

WHAT DO YOU WANT, APPEARING BEFORE US NOW?

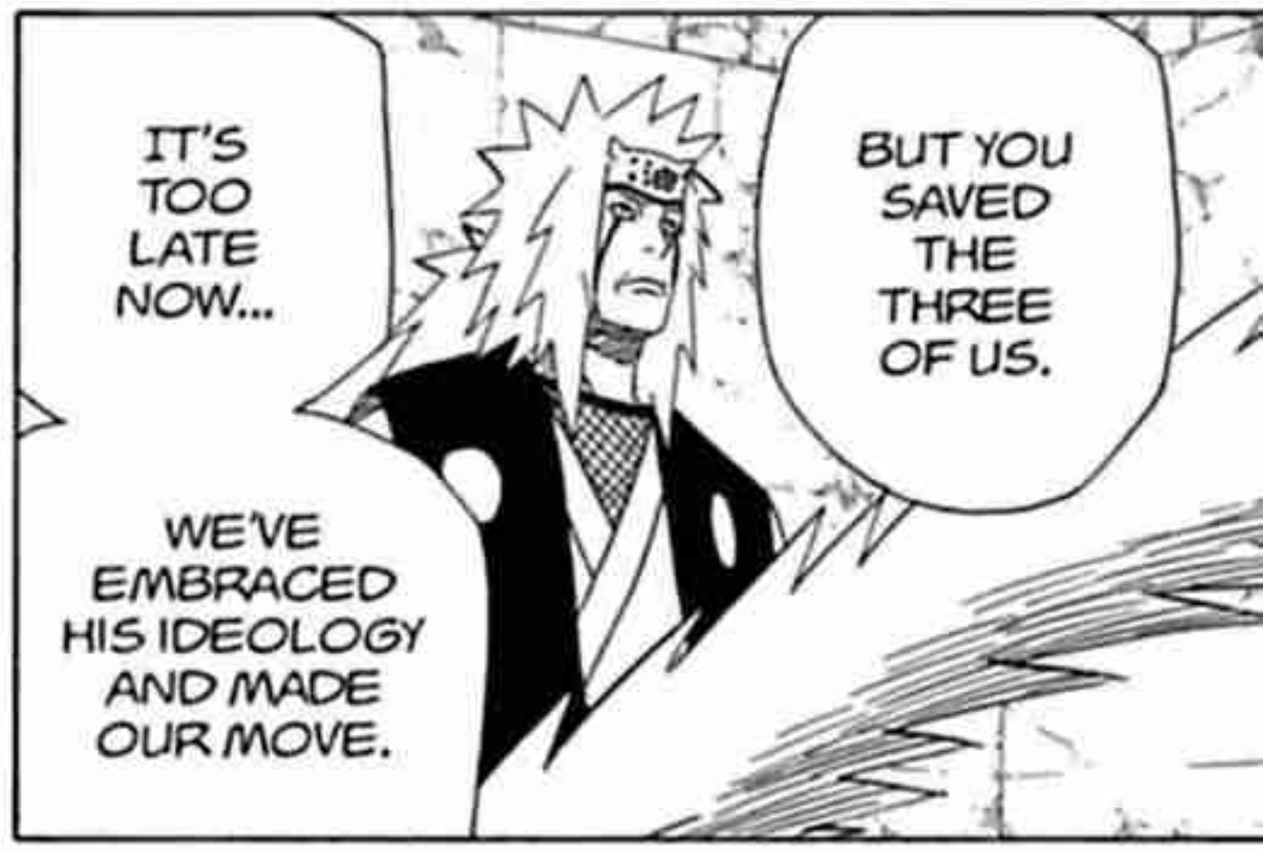
...IS PAIN?
SO WHICH OF THE OTHER TWO...

IF YOU ALL HADN'T BEEN PART OF THE AKATSUKI...
THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION.

...YOU OUGHT TO HAVE LISTENED TO OROCHIMARU...
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...?
BACK THEN...


I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD COME TO THIS...
WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE DEAD...

...HE'S GOT TO BE THAT ONE, NO MISTAKE.
PAIN...


IT'S TOO LATE NOW...
WE'VE EMBRACED HIS IDEOLOGY AND MADE OUR MOVE.
BUT YOU SAVED THE THREE OF US.

WHERE'RE YOUR PARENTS?
GIMME SOME FOOD!
...WHADDYA WANT?
HERE, HAVE SOME HARDTACK.
FSSH...
...
THEY WERE KILLED BY SHINOBI CUZ OF THE WAR.

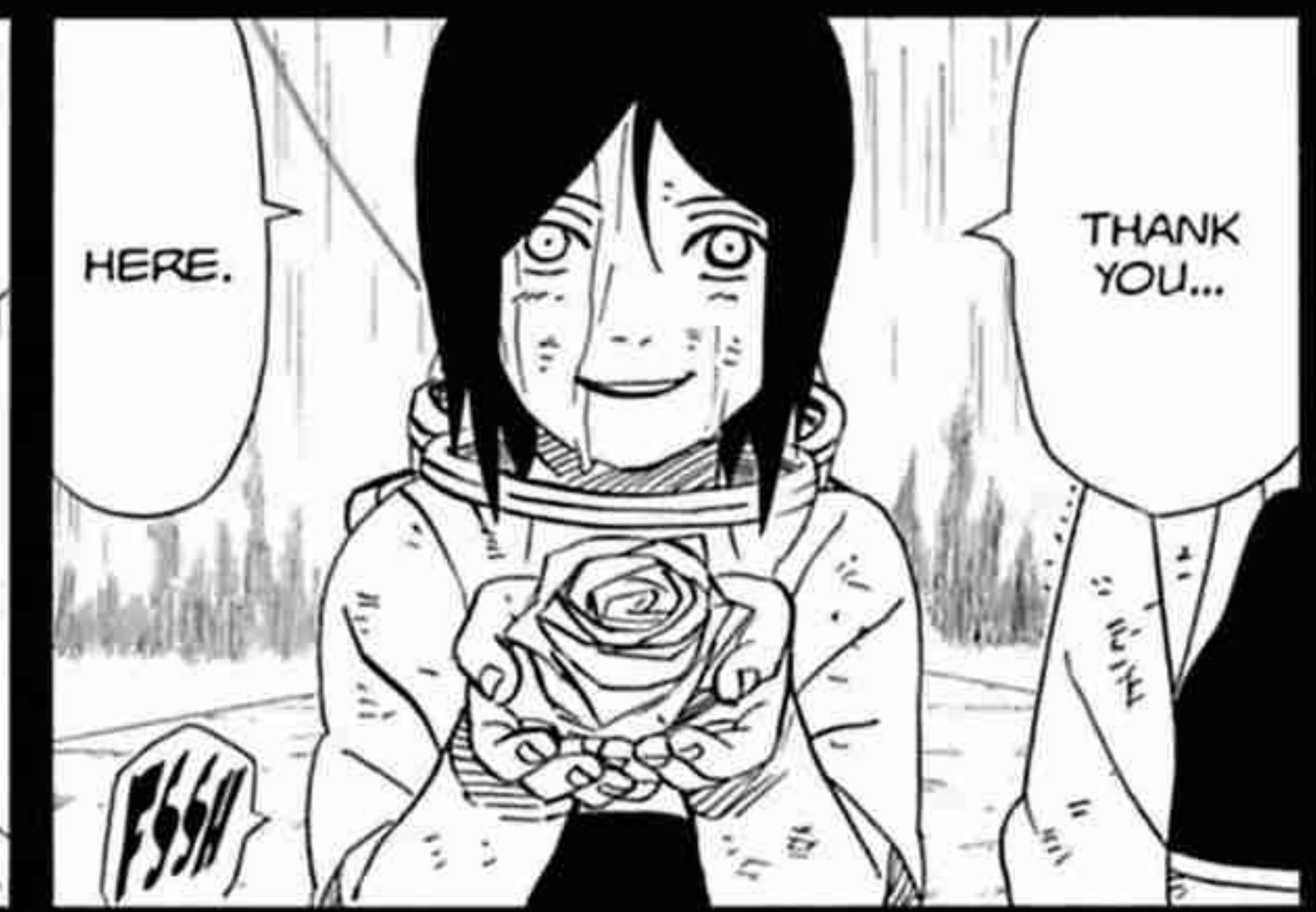
THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE BADDIES.

PLINK

PLINK

NAGATO, KONAN, C'MON OUT...

ORIGAMI, HUH... USING THE HARD-TACK'S WRAPPER..
...


HERE.
THANK YOU...
FSSH

WHA ?!
ZHHH
THEY WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF WE JUST PUT THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY RIGHT NOW...
WE'VE SEEN SO MANY WAR ORPHANS. IT'S REALLY VERY SAD.

SHALL I KILL THESE CHILDREN?

EXCUSE ME?!

...YOU AND TSUNADE HEAD BACK WITHOUT ME. I'LL STAY HERE AWHILE AND LOOK AFTER THEM.
OROCHI-MARU, ENOUGH!

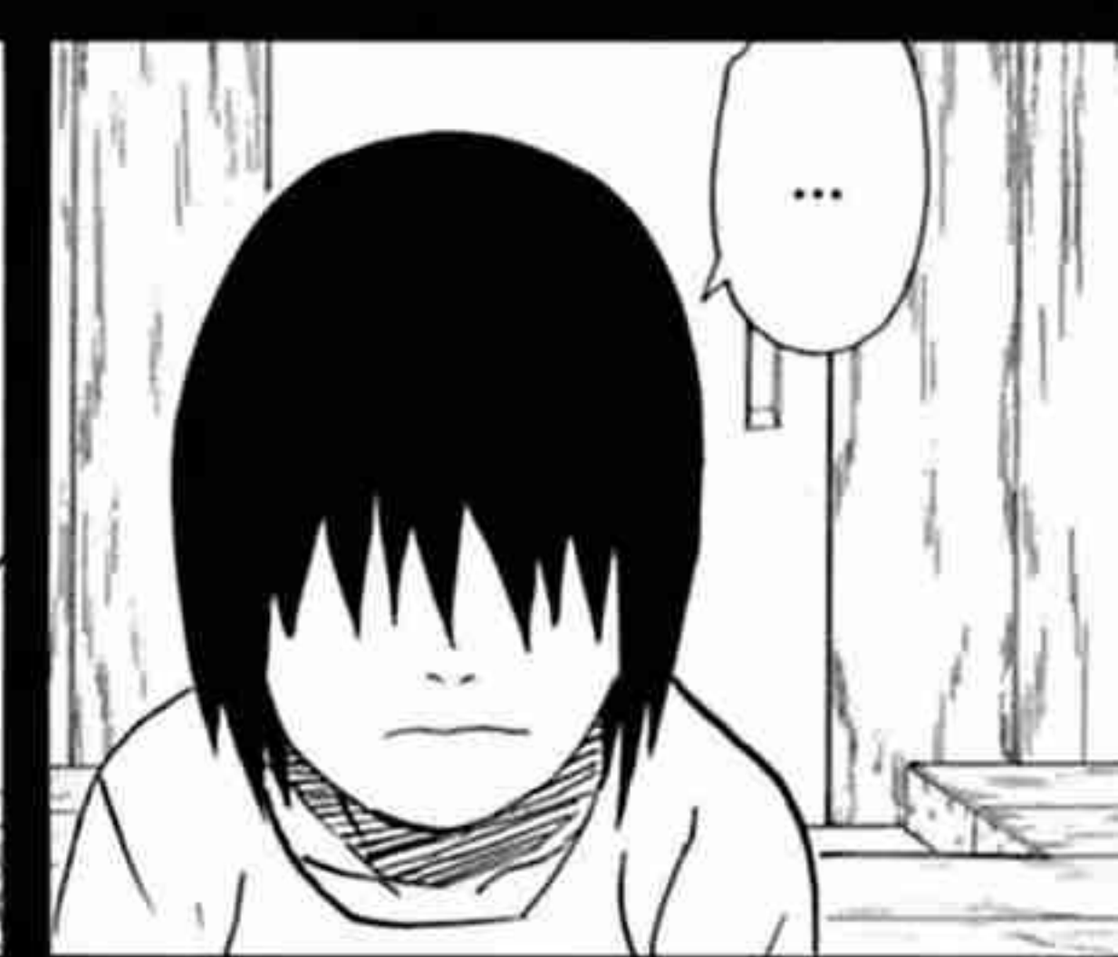
FWOOSH...

ONLY UNTIL THEY CAN BETTER TAKE CARE OF THEM-SELVES.
THINK OF IT AS REPARATION.

HA HA
YOU ROASTED THE FISH IN AN INSTANT WITH FIRE STYLE JUTSU!

FOOD!

MASTER! I THINK I'VE GOTTEN THE HANG OF FISHING!


...

UNH... UNH...

!

GHH...

...AND THEN...
...I JUST REMEMBERED... ABOUT MY FAMILY...

NAGATO, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

...

IT'S CUZ OF GUYS LIKE YOU THAT HIDDEN RAIN MEN ARE CONSIDERED COWARDS!!
STOP CRYING! YOU'RE A MAN!

...EVERY-ONE WILL BE LIVING IN PEACE AND PROS-PERITY...

BY THE TIME YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP...

...BUT I DON'T THINK THIS WAR'S GOING TO CONTINUE MUCH LONGER.

THE THREE GREAT LANDS THAT SURROUND AMEGAKURE MAY BE UNSTABLE RIGHT NOW...

IF THERE IS TO BE PEACE, IT SHOULD ONLY COME AFTER THEY GO THROUGH WHAT WE DID!

THAT'S THE TRUE MEANING OF *SHARING THE PAIN*, ISN'T IT?!

BUT WE'VE ALL LOST OUR FAMILIES!

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!!

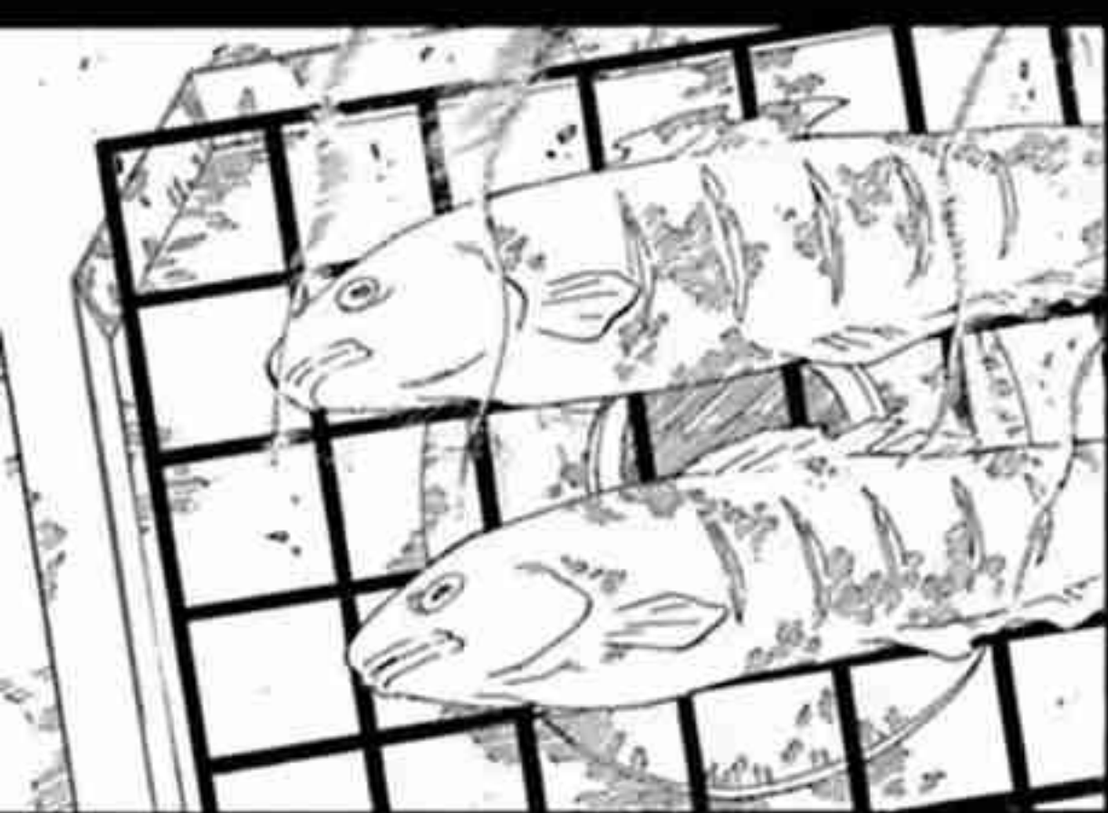
AND THAT'S WHY THERE WILL ALWAYS BE WAR!

BUT... EVEN I KNOW THAT'S A FANTASY.

...

I WILL PROTECT EVERY-ONE!!
I WILL CHANGE THIS LAND.

THIS COUNTRY IS ALWAYS CRYING...
I HATE RAIN.
...IT'S A COWARD!



...WANT YOU TO TEACH US NIN-JUTSU, MASTER JIRAIYA!
THAT'S WHY I...

I WILL PROTECT EVERY-ONE!!
AND THAT'S WHY THERE WILL ALWAYS BE WAR!
IF THERE IS TO BE PEACE, IT SHOULD ONLY COME AFTER THEY GO THROUGH WHAT WE DID!

THWUP

LEAD THE WAY, KONAN!!

YAHIKO AND NAGATO ARE IN TROUBLE ...!!

BANG

MASTER JIRAIYA, HURRY!

HUF

HUF

TIMP

WE...

WHAT HAPPENED?

UNH...

I BROUGHT MASTER JIRAIYA!

SPLISH

HOW'D NAGATO ...
THIS FELLOW'S AN IWAGAKURE CHUNIN...!

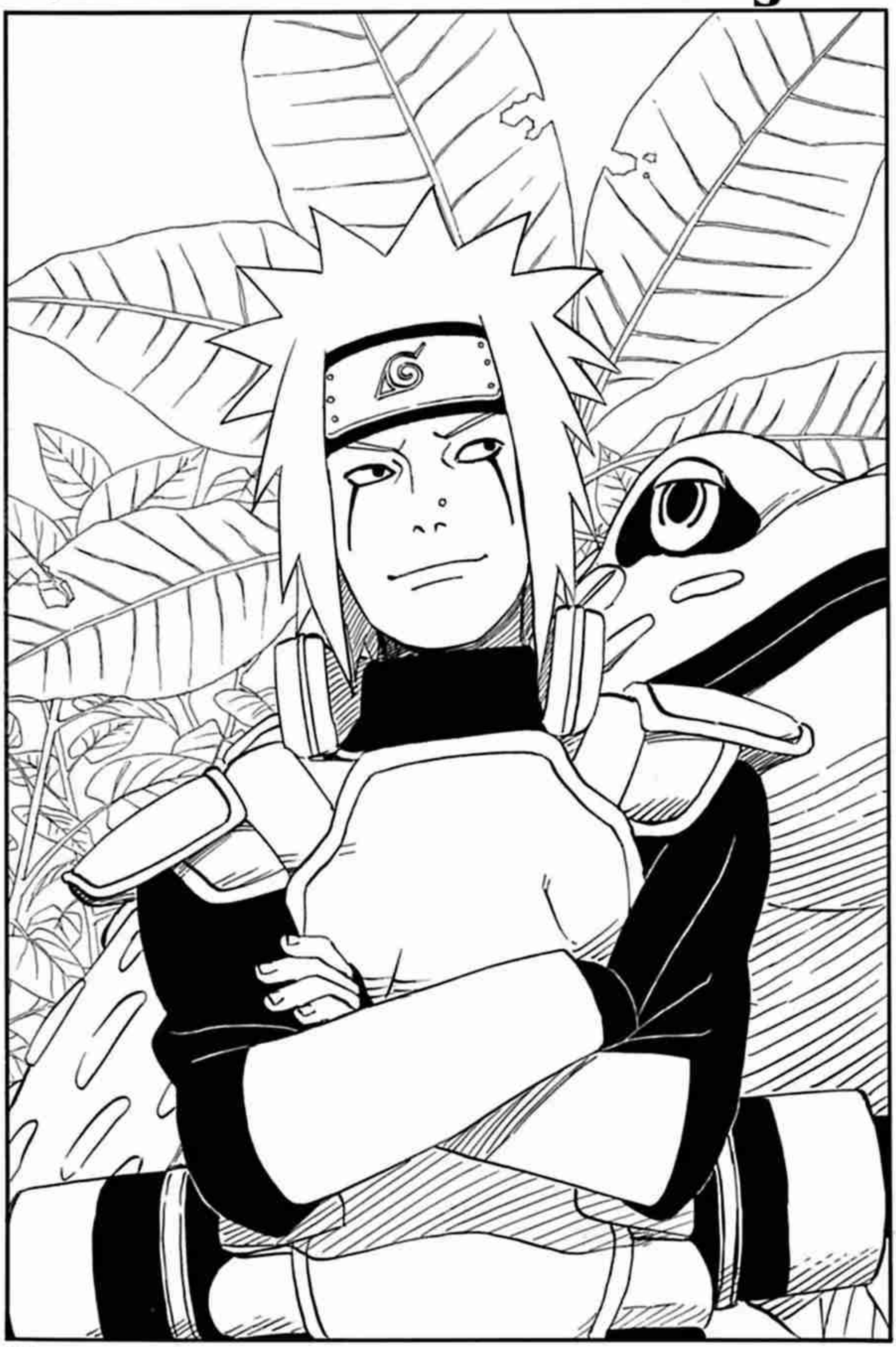
BUT THEN NAGATO... HE...
...WERE ATTACKED BY THIS RENEGADE SHINOBI...
HE WANTED FOOD OR MONEY...

HUF
HUF

DON'T TELL ME HE'S...?!

TH-THOSE PUPILS...!!
!!!

Number 373: Back in the Day...!!



THOSE PUPILS... THAT RIPPLE PATTERN ....!
UNBELIEV-ABLE...
FWOOSH
THOSE EYES... SAID TO HOLD THE MOST NOBLE OF THE THREE GREAT OCULAR JUTSU...
...THE RINNE-GAN...!!

IT IS TOUTED THAT THE RINNEGAN EYE-POSSESSING SAGE DEVELOPED ALL THE JUTSU KNOWN TO US TODAY...

IT ORIGINATED WITH THE SAGE OF THE SIX PATHS, SAID TO BE THE FATHER OF ALL SHINOBI...

NO ONE COULD REALLY POSSESS RINNEGAN...

...I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS A MYTH...

RUMORED TO ALWAYS APPEAR WHEN THE WORLD BECOMES CORRUPT, CAPABLE OF BEING BOTH A GODLIKE FORCE OF CREATION AND AN ALL-OBLITERATING INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION...

I'VE DECIDED TO TEACH YOU NINJUTSU.

THANKS FOR SAVING ME THE OTHER DAY, NAGATO!
I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU A COWARD!

TH-THANKS, YAHIKO.

NEXT TIME, I PROMISE TO RESCUE YOU!

YOU SAY TOO MUCH, AS ALWAYS, KONAN!
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO TRAIN HARDER TO GET STRONGER!

WHAT? BUT NAGATO'S STRONGER THAN YOU, YAHIKO!

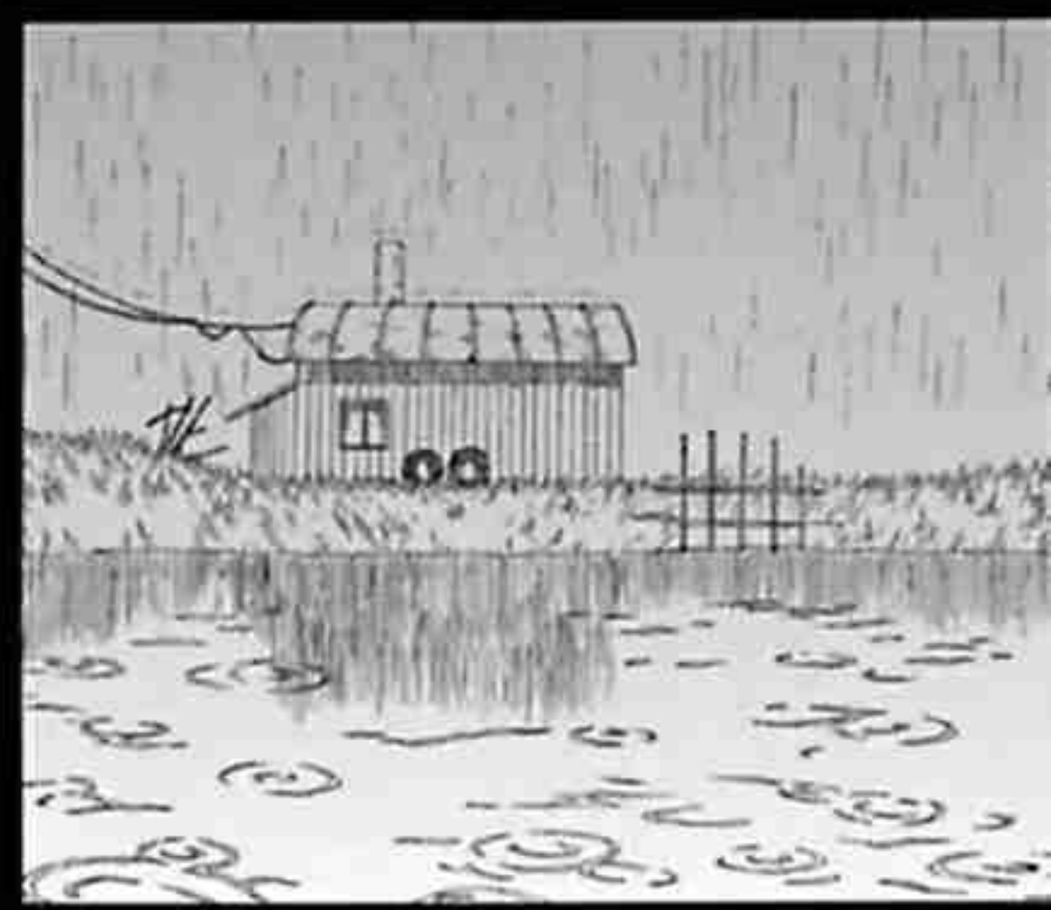
YES, MASTER!!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET STARTED!

FIRST, YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN HOW TO MANIPU-LATE CHAKRA.

!

UNH... UNH UNH...



TUP
UNH...
MASTER ...
TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.
FSSH
!
STILL FRETTING ABOUT THAT DAY?
...LIKE I WAS IN A TRANCE OR SOME-THING...
THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLANK IN MY HEAD...
...WHEN THAT MAN HURT YAHIKO...
THAT DAY...
...I WAS SO MAD AT HIM.

...THAT I HAD GONE BLIND WITH RAGE AND KILLED HIM...!!

I BECAME SO FRIGHTENED...

I KNOW I DID SOMETHING WRONG...!

THE NEXT THING I KNEW, THE MAN WAS ON THE GROUND, DEAD...

READ THIS WAY
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU HURT ANOTHER, YOU BECOME HATED, IN ADDITION TO SHOULDERING A SENSE OF GUILT.
ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN HURT, YOU LEARN WHAT IT IS TO HATE...
NO ONE CAN FAULT YOU FOR THAT...
...
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.
BUT IT IS BECAUSE ONE UNDERSTANDS SUCH PAIN THAT GENEROSITY TOWARD OTHERS BECOMES SECOND NATURE.
I STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND.
GROW UP?
TO GROW UP.
WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?

...
TO BECOME ABLE TO THINK AND MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS.
...
EVEN STOLE OTHER PEOPLE'S FOOD...
...FROM HUNGER.
WHEN WE WERE CRYING, YAHIKO SAVED KONAN AND ME...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN BEFALLS ME.
I JUST WANT TO PROTECT THEM.
...I SEE.

WATER STYLE! RAGING WAVES!!
SPLOOO
ZIP
SPLOOO
PAPER SHURIKEN!!
THP

WIND STYLE! GALE PALM!!

SHU

MO

SHOOM

YES!

WELL, MASTER ?!!
YOU'VE SURE COME A LONG WAY. EVEN ABLE TO TAKE DOWN MY SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER NOW...

BO
OF

...HUH...?
!

THIS MEANS I CAN FINALLY RETURN TO MY VILLAGE WITH PEACE OF MIND.

HEY, NO TEARS, YAHIKO. PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE A COWARD.
WHOOSH
TREMBLE

YOU'VE DONE WELL THESE PAST THREE YEARS!
FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

BUT FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, YOU THREE CAN CHANGE THE FATE OF THIS LAND.

SHUP

THIS LAND IS DESTITUTE... SO THERE'LL BE HARD DAYS AHEAD.

KONAN... YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE BEAUTIFUL...

LET'S MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY.

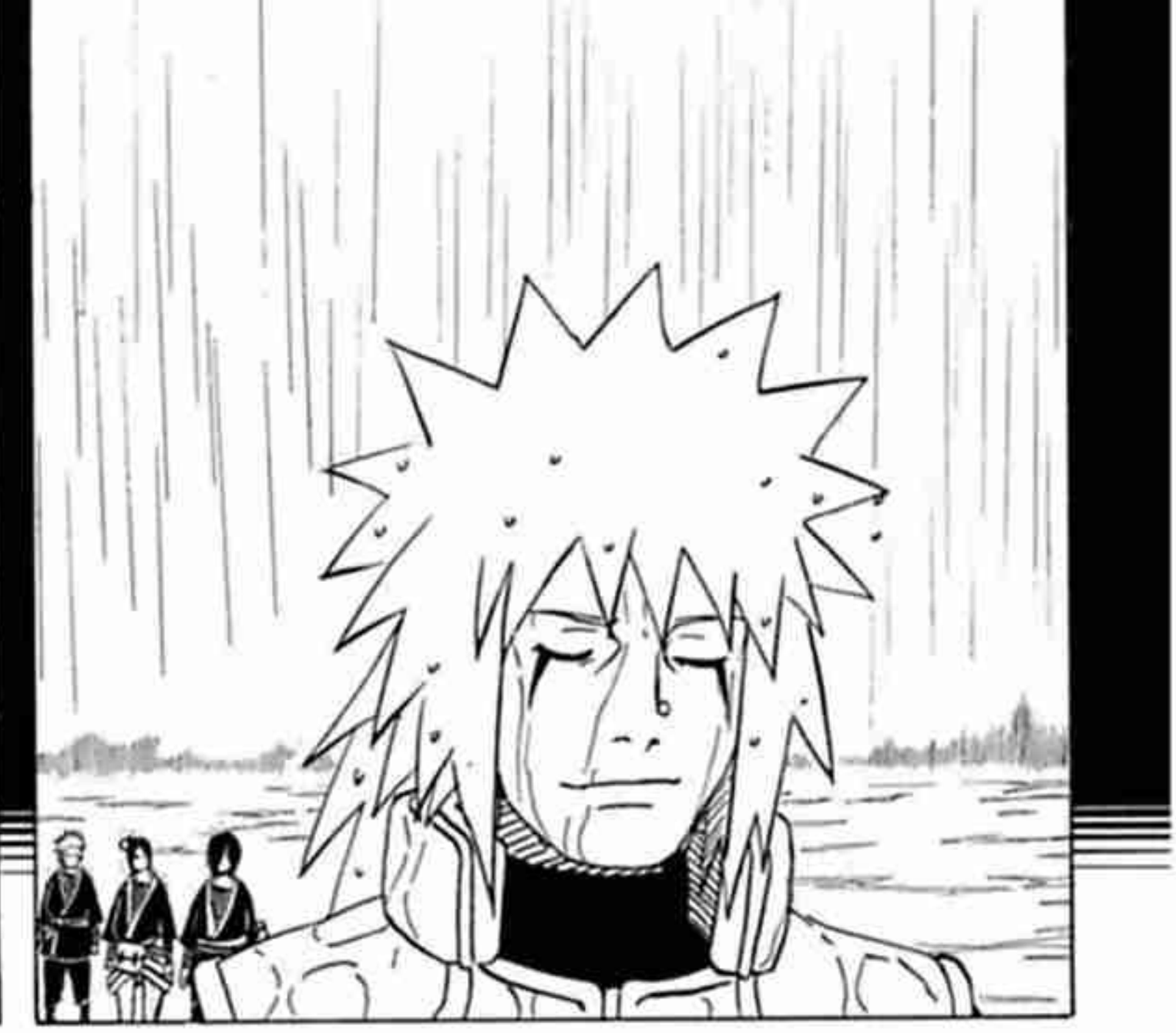
DON'T YOU AGREE?

NAGATO... YOU ALL HAVE GROWN UP.

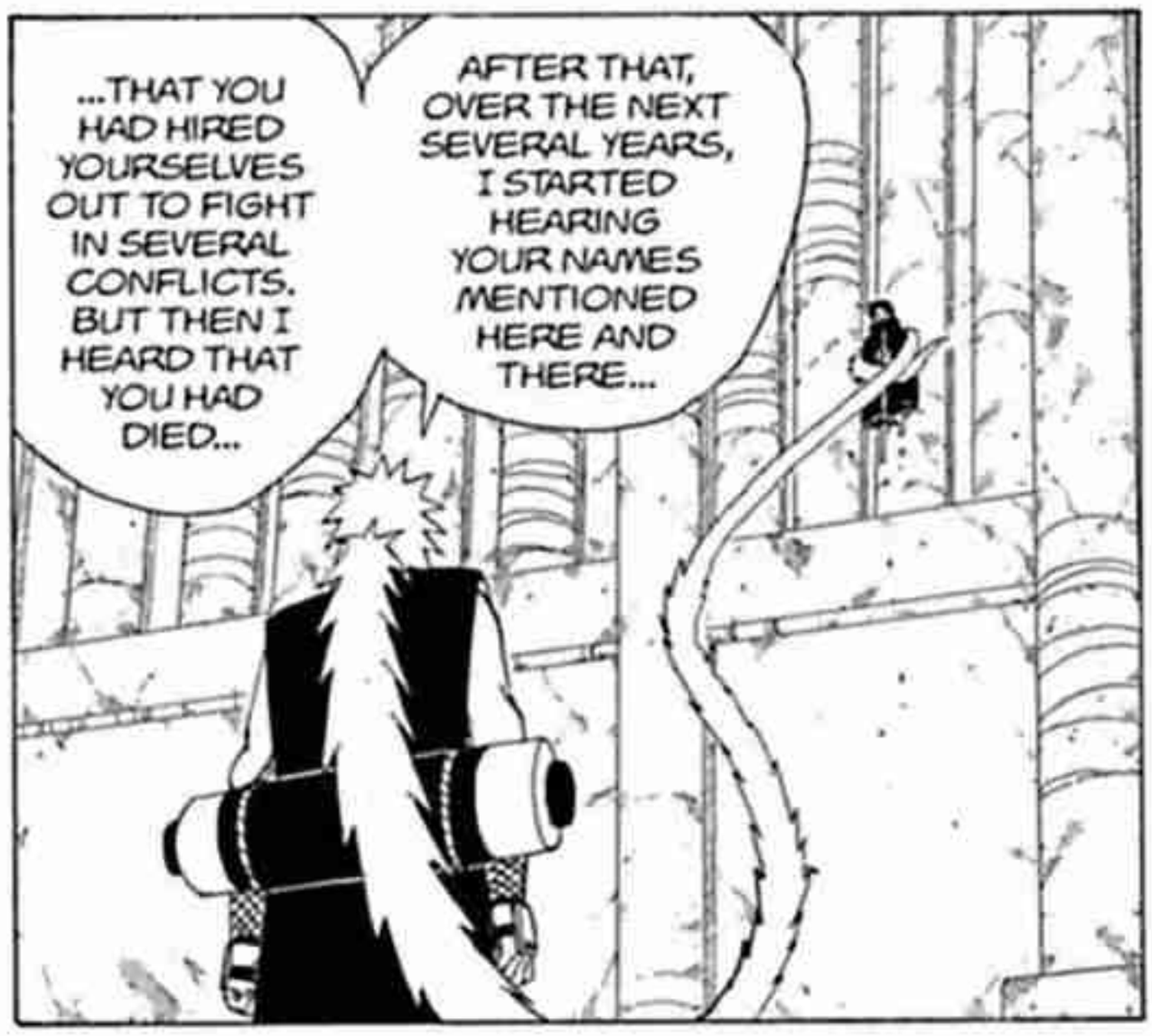
THANK YOU... MASTER.

...

油



MASTER, YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO US AFTER-WARDS...


...THAT YOU HAD HIRED YOURSELVES OUT TO FIGHT IN SEVERAL CONFLICTS. BUT THEN I HEARD THAT YOU HAD DIED...
AFTER THAT, OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, I STARTED HEARING YOUR NAMES MENTIONED HERE AND THERE...

BUT THIS IS WHAT I'VE THOUGHT THROUGH ON MY OWN...

BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT WHAT THE AKATSUKI IS DOING IS WRONG!
THAT'S APPARENT.
油

MASTER JIRAIYA.

WHAT HAPPENED?
IT SEEMS YOU'VE STRAYED OFF THE PATH OF GOOD...
油

IT'S REALLY YOU WHO IS PAIN, EH.
...NAGATO.
YOUR OUTWARD APPEAR-ANCE HAS CHANGED QUITE A BIT, BUT FROM THOSE EYES OF YOURS...

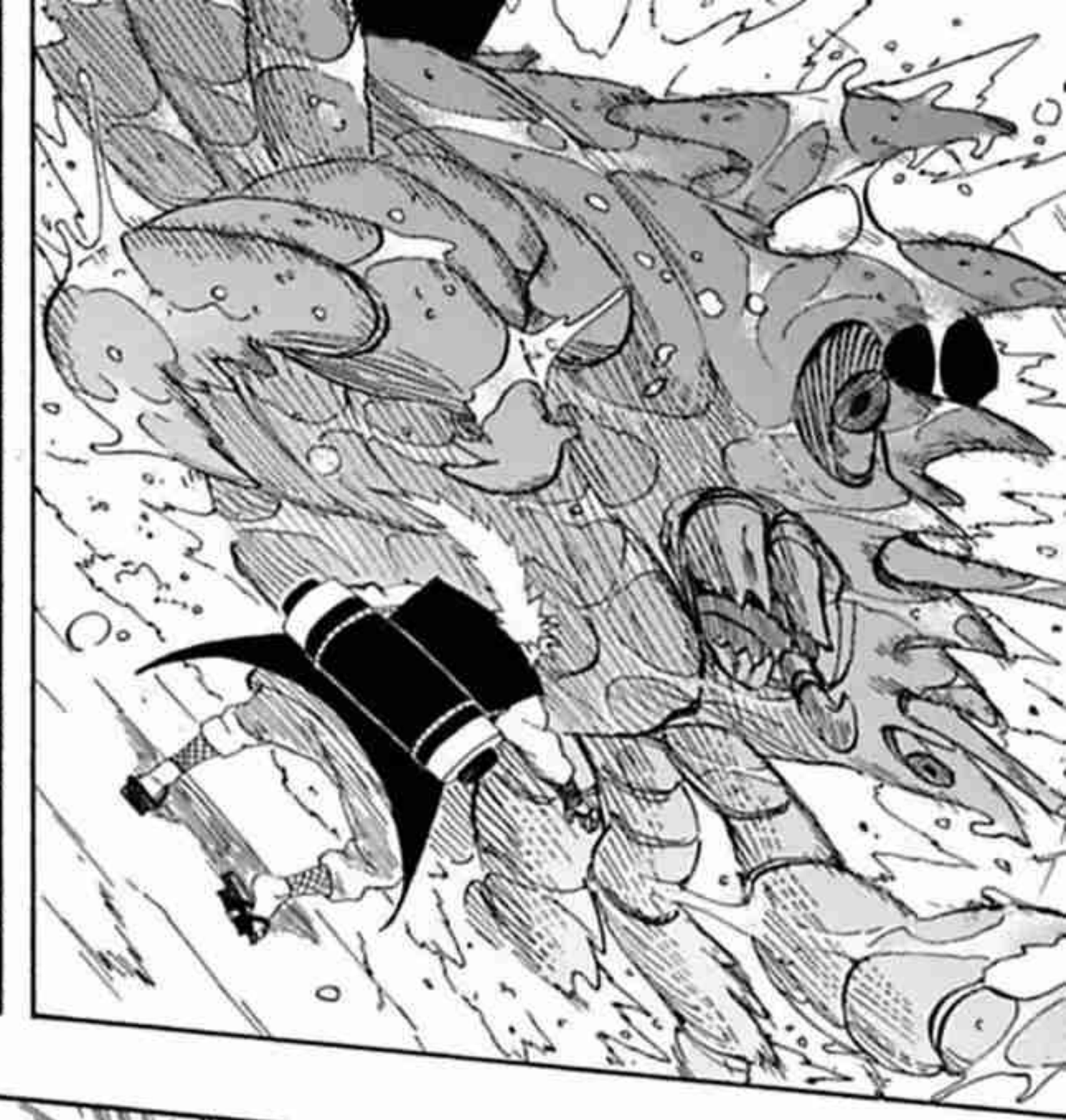
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW...
...AFTER ALL, YOU ARE AN OUTSIDER.

Number 374: Advancement!!

Number 374: Advancement!!

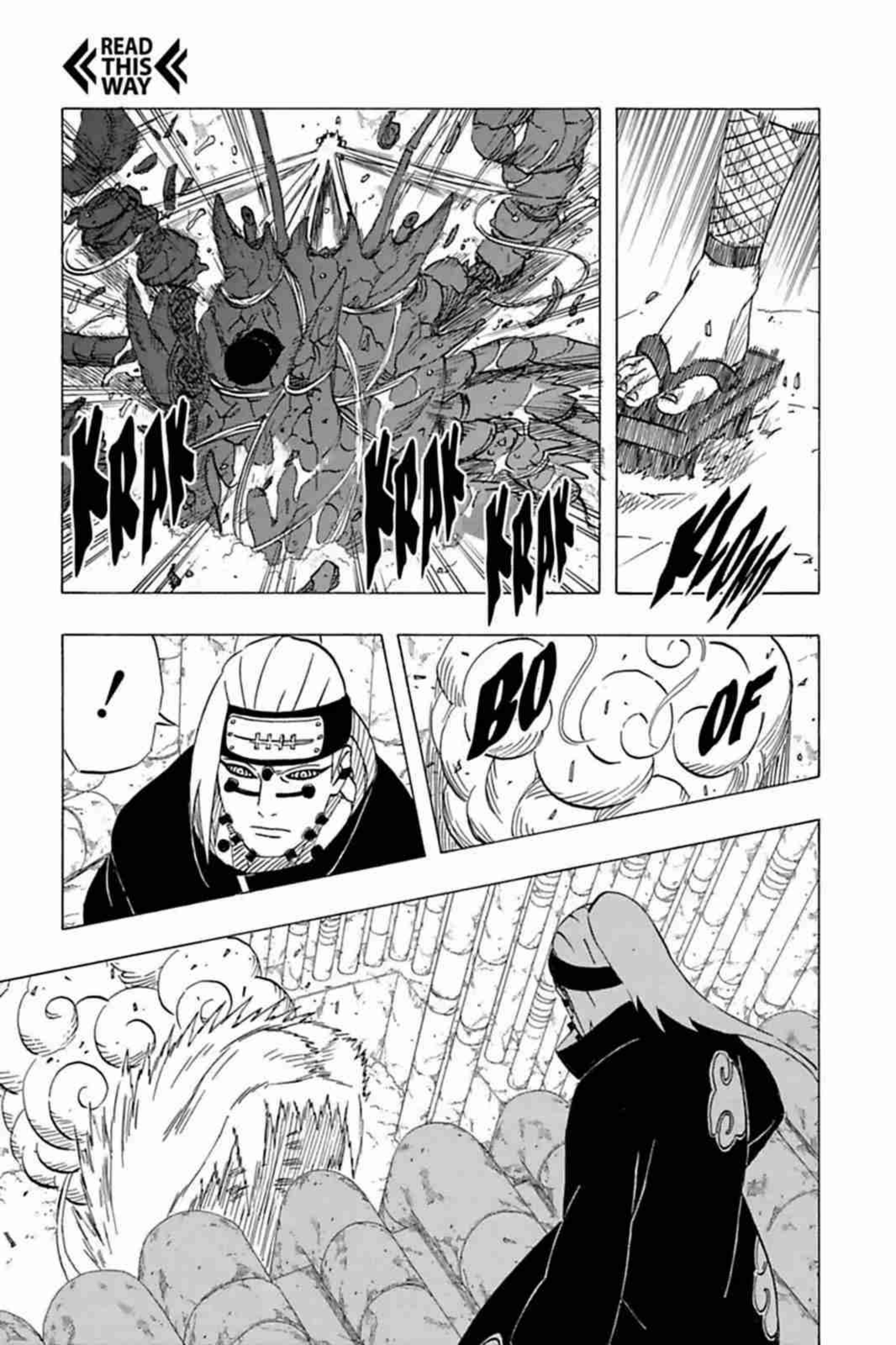
READ THIS WAY
BLOP
LEAVE IT TO MY FORMER STUDENTS TO KNOW MY WEAKNESS.
KLOP
THEY'RE NULLIFYING AND WASHING AWAY MY OIL.
SWISH
STAY BACK.
BOOF
!
FLAP
SLUG

KI
AD



ART OF THE RAGING LION'S MANE!!
DSH

FRRRRRRRRL


READ THIS WAY
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KLONG
!
BO
OF

BO
OM
FRRRL
THOOM

FIRST, WHAT HAPPENED TO YAHIKO?

NAGATO...
...I WANT TO ASK YOU SEVERAL THINGS.

AAH... THERE WAS SUCH A FELLOW, WASN'T THERE.
AAH...

HE DIED A LONG TIME AGO.

VWEEN
?!

THE OLD YOU...
...IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?

I JUST WANT TO PROTECT THEM.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN BEFALLS ME.

NAGATO, WHAT...

THE "PAIN" FORCED ME TO GROW UP.

THERE WERE TOO MANY DEATHS IN THIS LAND.

JUST WAR.

NOTHING...

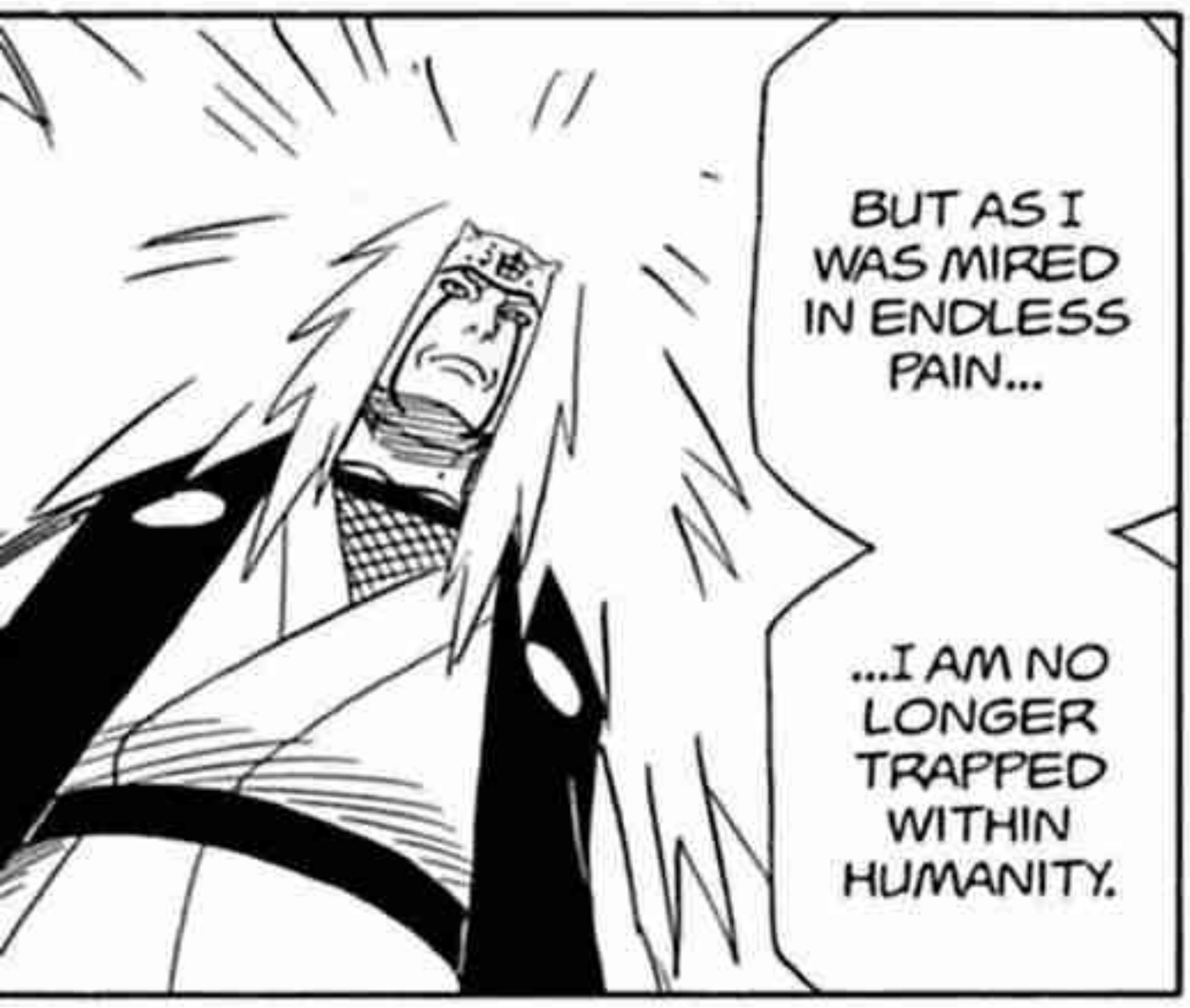
EVEN INNOCENT, FOOLISH CHILDREN...

...GROW UP IN THE FACE OF PAIN.

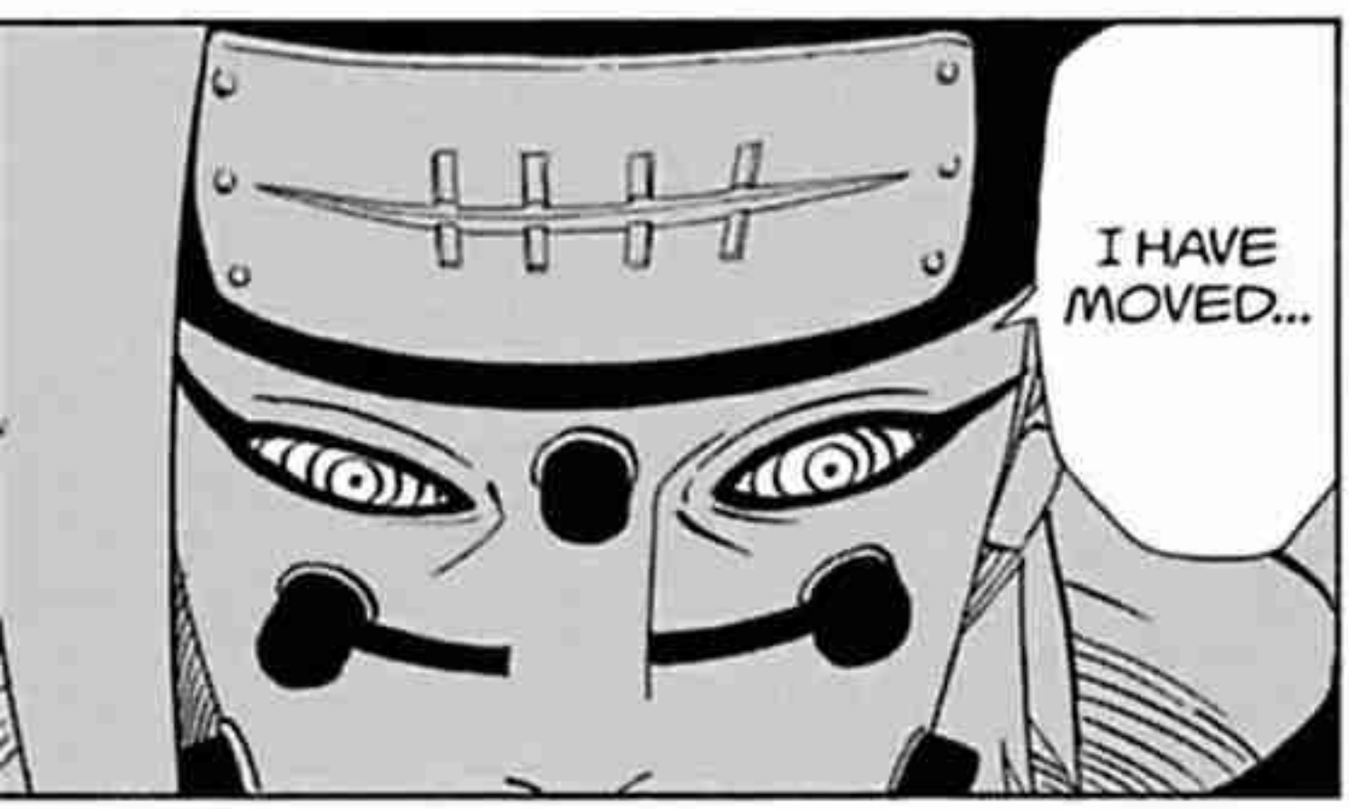
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?

GROWN-UPS DON'T ABANDON THEIR COMRADES!

UNTIL THEIR THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE OF ADULTS.

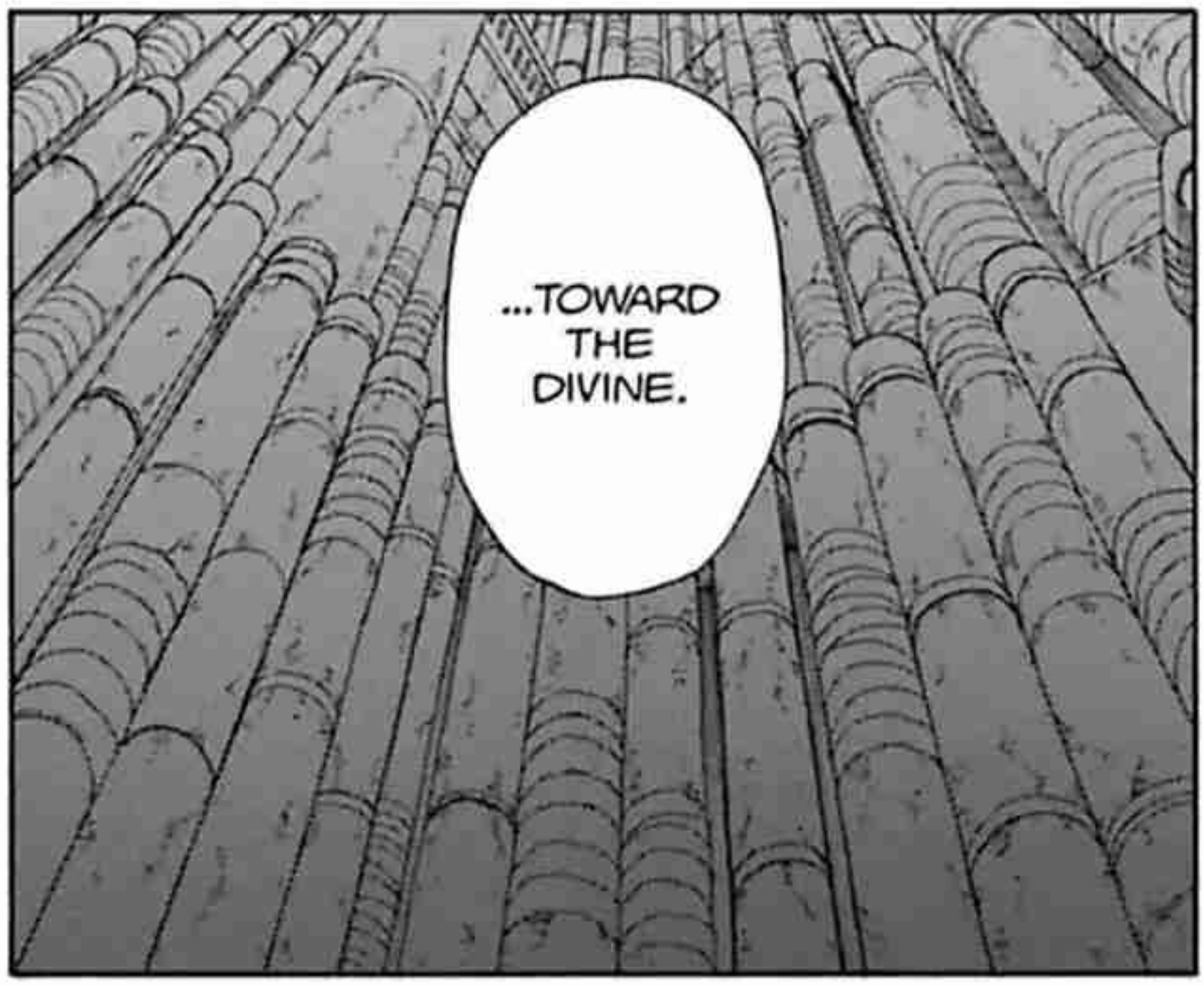

BUT AS I WAS MIRED IN ENDLESS PAIN...
...I AM NO LONGER TRAPPED WITHIN HUMANITY.

MASTER... YOU ARE MERELY HUMAN...


I HAVE MOVED...

...WHAT?

...


...TOWARD THE DIVINE.

I NEVER COULD HAVE PRE-DICTED YOU'D COME TO THIS...

MASTER... YOU ARE MORTAL...

...IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM SAYING.

ONCE I BECAME A GOD, MY WORDS AND THOUGHTS WERE TRANSFORMED INTO THOSE OF A DEITY.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I'VE EVOLVED.

AND IT IS BECAUSE I AM A GOD THAT I WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR MORTALS.

I CAN NOW SEE THINGS THAT I COULDN'T WHEN I WAS STILL HUMAN.

THIS WILL BE MY SACRED DEED.

I AM GOING TO PUT A STOP TO THIS LUDICROUS, WAR-RIDDLED WORLD.

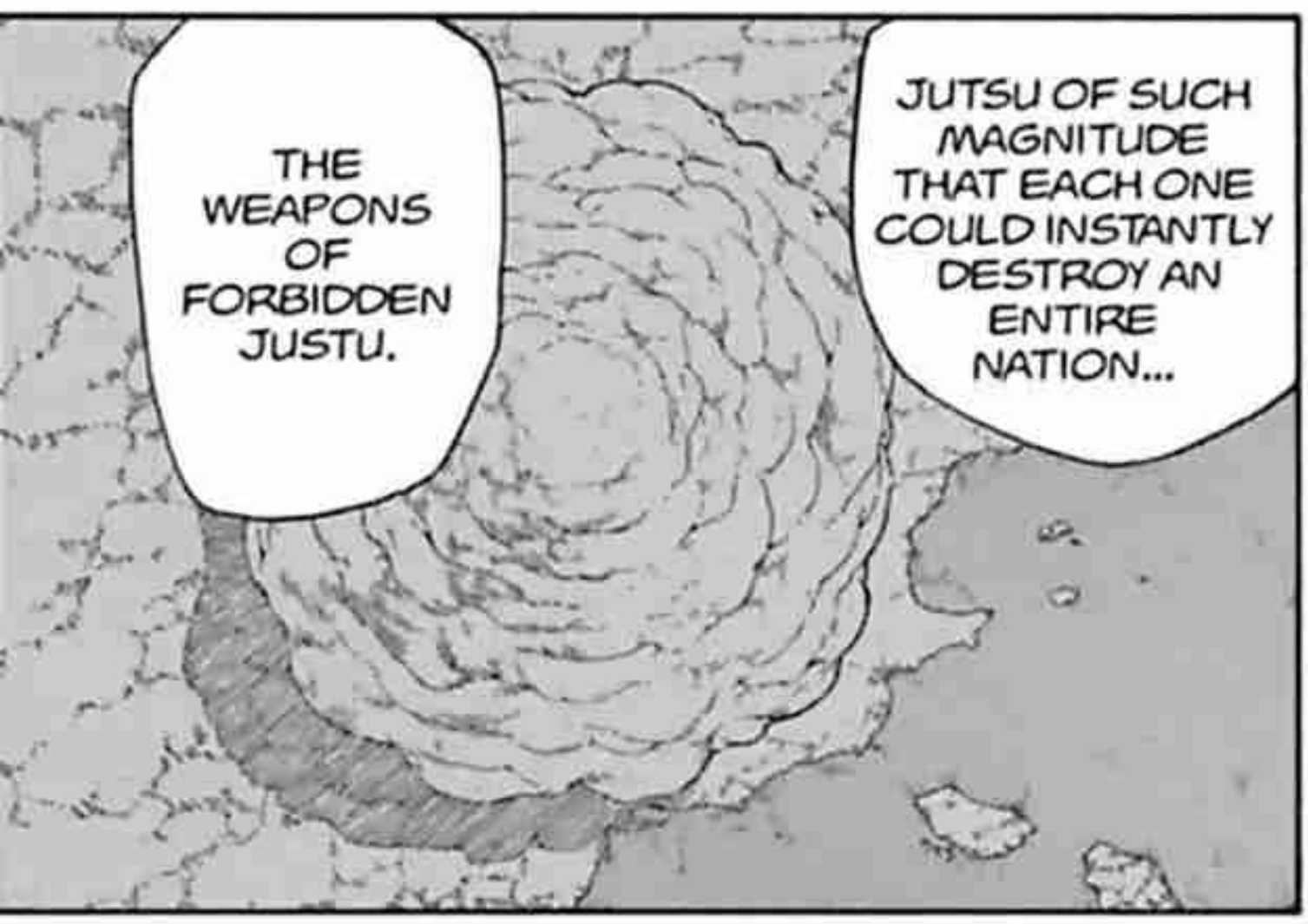
...

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

...?

...I DON'T NEED TO KEEP THIS SECRET FROM YOU ANY LONGER.
SINCE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE...

WHAT? THEN WHY GATHER THE TAILED BEASTS?


THE WEAPONS OF FORBIDDEN JUSTU.
JUTSU OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT EACH ONE COULD INSTANTLY DESTROY AN ENTIRE NATION...

THE TAILED BEASTS WILL ALLOW US TO DEVELOP NEW FORBIDDEN JUTSU.

IT WILL JUST INCREASE CONFLICTS!
AND HOW IS *THAT* GOING TO PUT AN END TO WAR?

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN ASKING YOU!

ANSWER ME!

...TO STOP COUNTRIES FROM FIGHTING EACH OTHER, MASTER JIRAIYA?

WHAT IS THE QUICKEST WAY...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

AND MANKIND WOULD QUAKE IN TERROR!

JUST THINK, IN A FLASH, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WOULD BE WIPED OUT.

FOR IF THEY HAVE THEM, THEY WILL USE THEM.

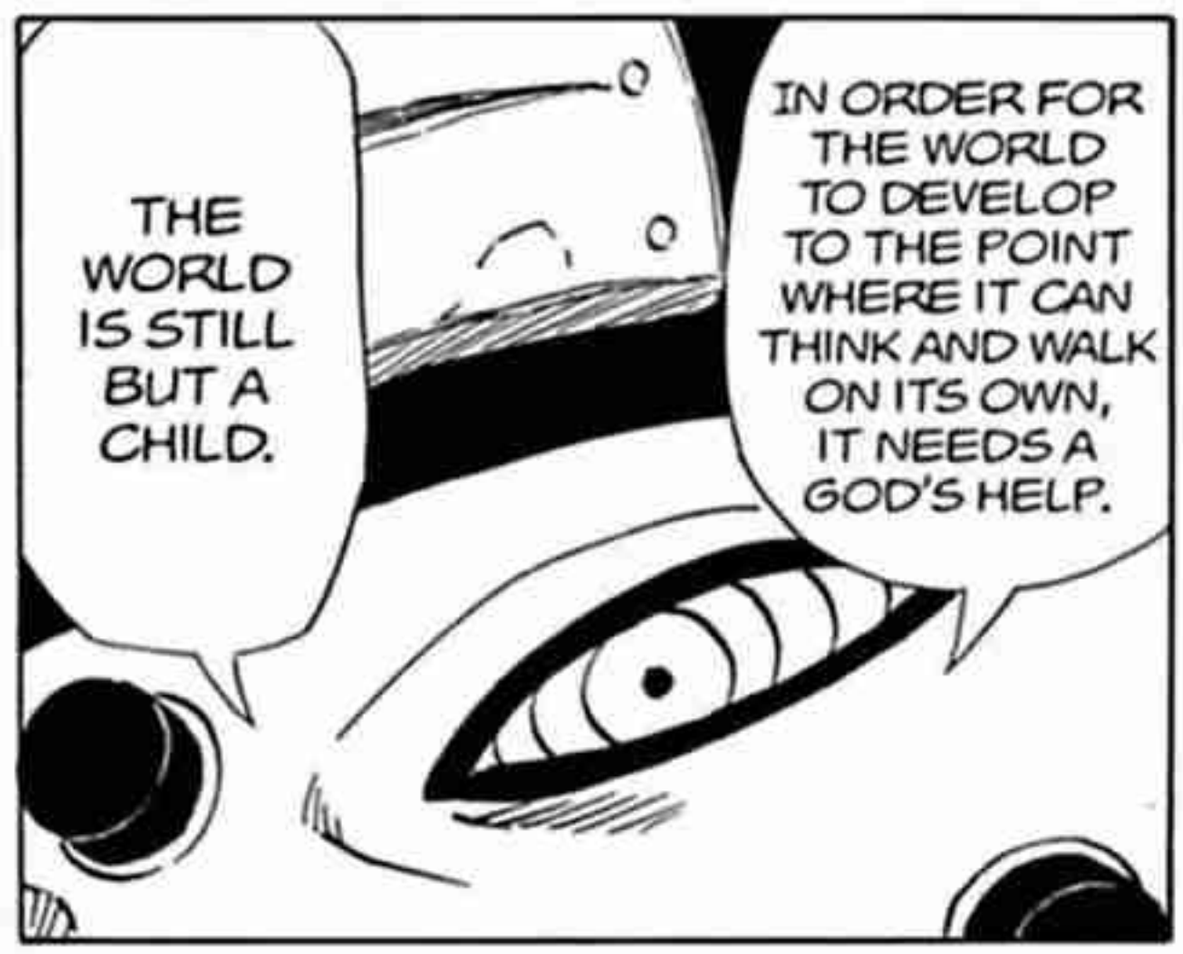
WE JUST NEED TO HAND THEM THESE FORBIDDEN WEAPONS.

...THEY WOULD KNOW PAIN!!

ALL OF HUMANITY, ALL NATIONS, THE ENTIRE WORLD...

IT CAN BE SAID THAT AS THIS WORLD SLOWLY MATURES, IT IS STILL ON THE PATH TO STABILITY.

CONFLICTS WOULD CEASE.
THIS FEAR WOULD GIVE RISE TO THE END OF WARFARE.


THE WORLD IS STILL BUT A CHILD.
IN ORDER FOR THE WORLD TO DEVELOP TO THE POINT WHERE IT CAN THINK AND WALK ON ITS OWN, IT NEEDS A GOD'S HELP.

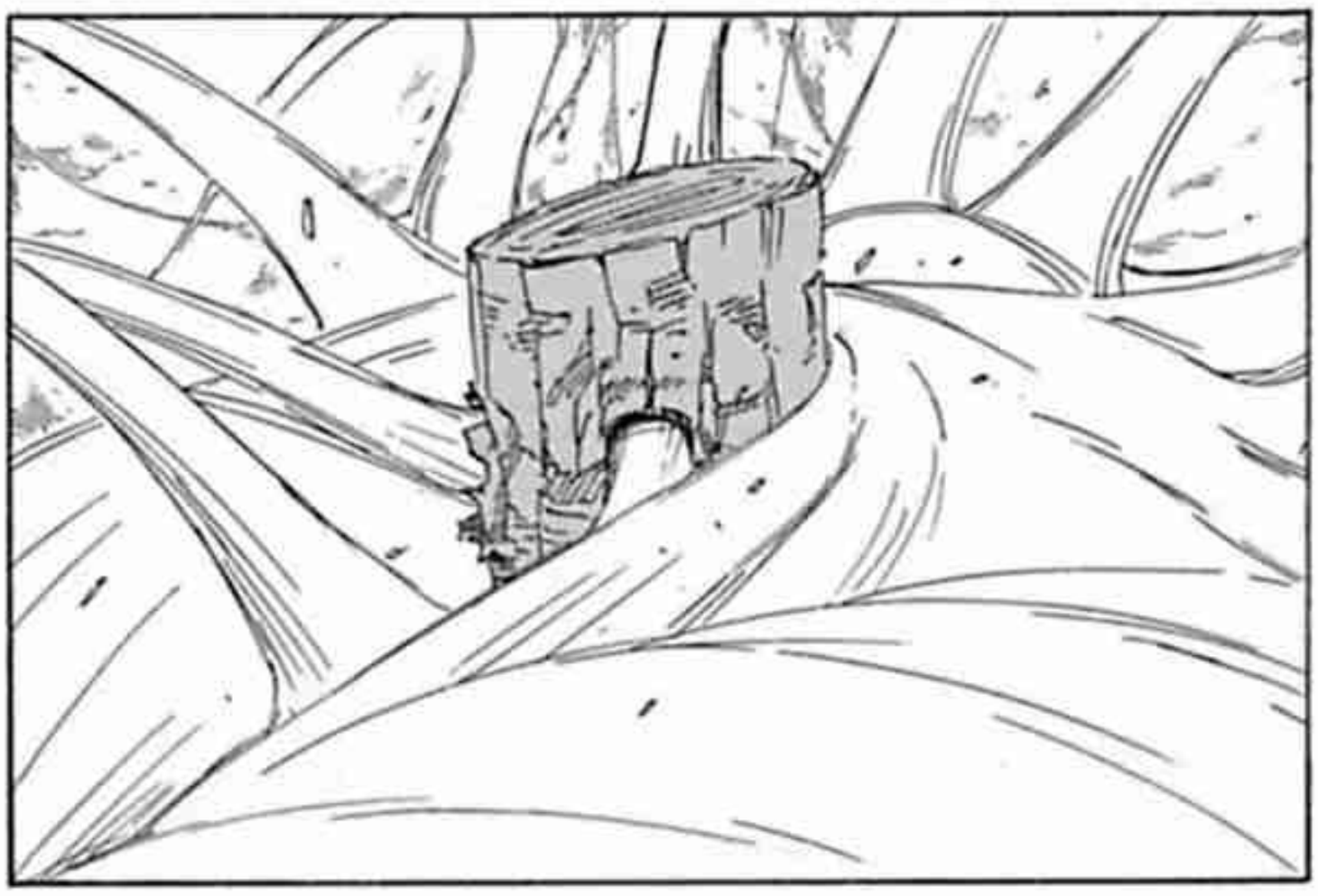
JUST LIKE IT DID FOR US.
PAIN WILL FORCE THE WORLD TO GROW UP.

I SEE YOU'VE GROWN A SENSE OF HUMOR... NAGATO.

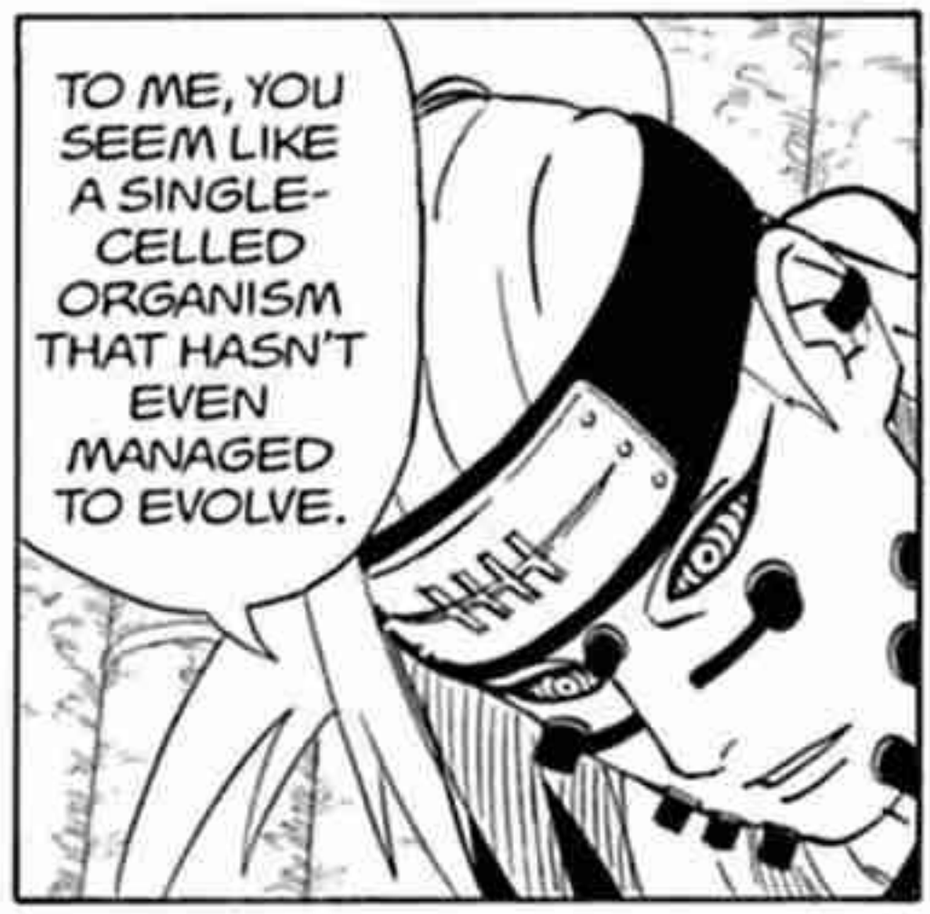
...FOR I AM A PACIFIST DEITY.
THAT'S RIGHT...

...THAT'S YOUR MISSION?
SO YOU'RE GOING TO TEACH THE WORLD PAIN FOR THE SAKE OF ITS DEVELOP-MENT...

UGH!



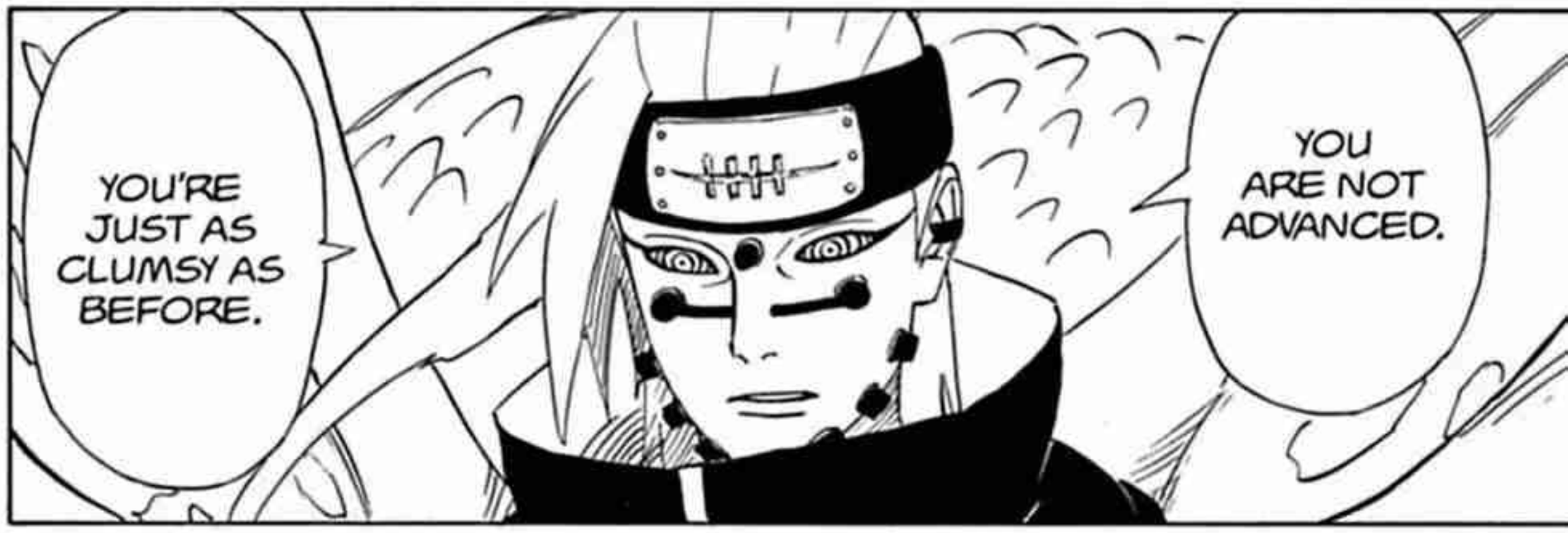
GWA-HA HA HA HA HA!!
SHOO


TO ME, YOU SEEM LIKE A SINGLE-CELLED ORGANISM THAT HASN'T EVEN MANAGED TO EVOLVE.

OF COURSE, I'M NOT REALLY HUMAN ANYMORE, EITHER!!
BOOF
TO BE TREATED LIKE A KID BY A KID!

KLAP
ART OF SUMMON-ING!!

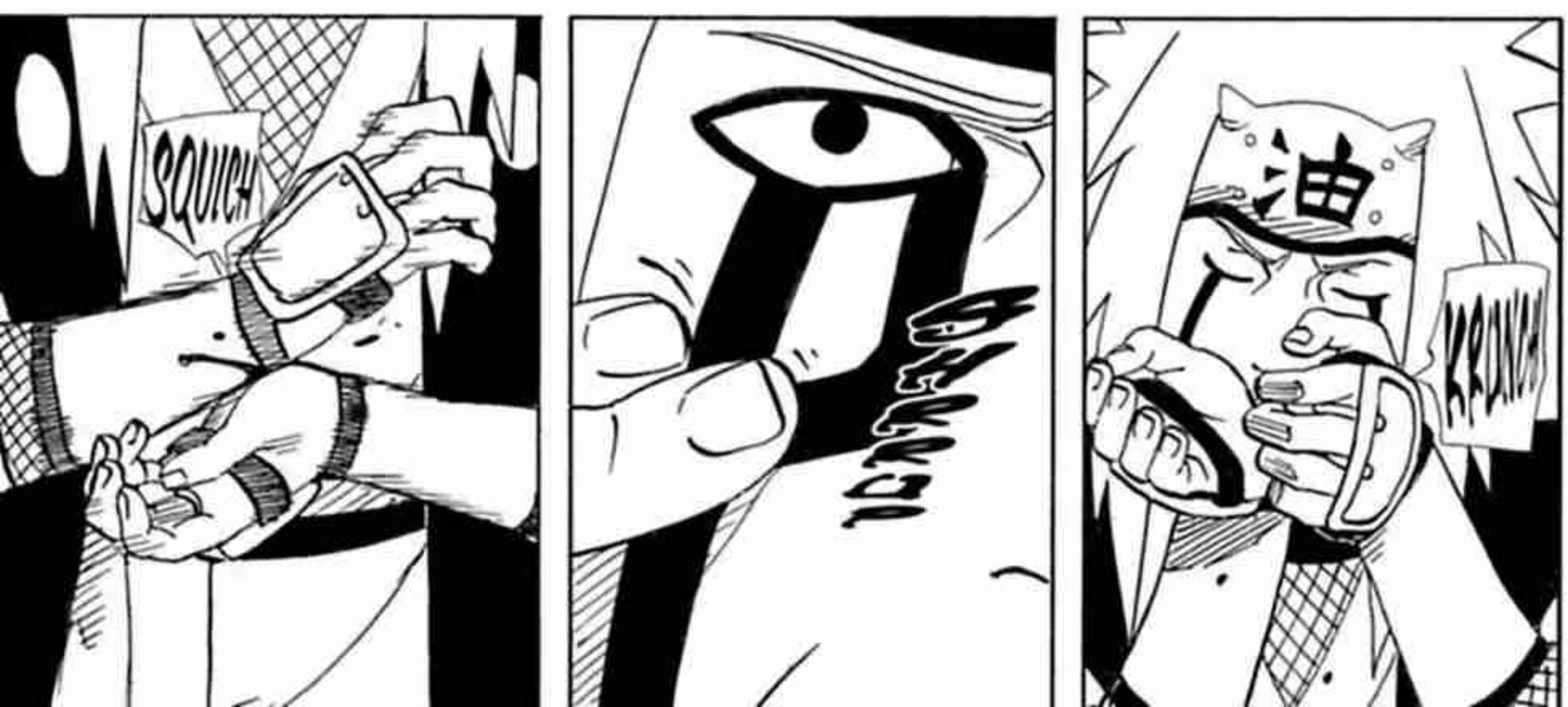
BLURP
AWK...!
SPLAT
I AM MASTER JIRAIYA...
THE MOST HOLY HERMIT SAGE OF THE MOUNT MYOBOKU TOADS!!
THESE TEARS OF BLOOD, OVER-FLOWING WITH RAGE!
I WENT FROM PRODIGAL THREE TO HERMIT SAGE!
TA-DAA


YOU'RE JUST AS CLUMSY AS BEFORE.
YOU ARE NOT ADVANCED.

BUT I AM UNGRACE-FUL...

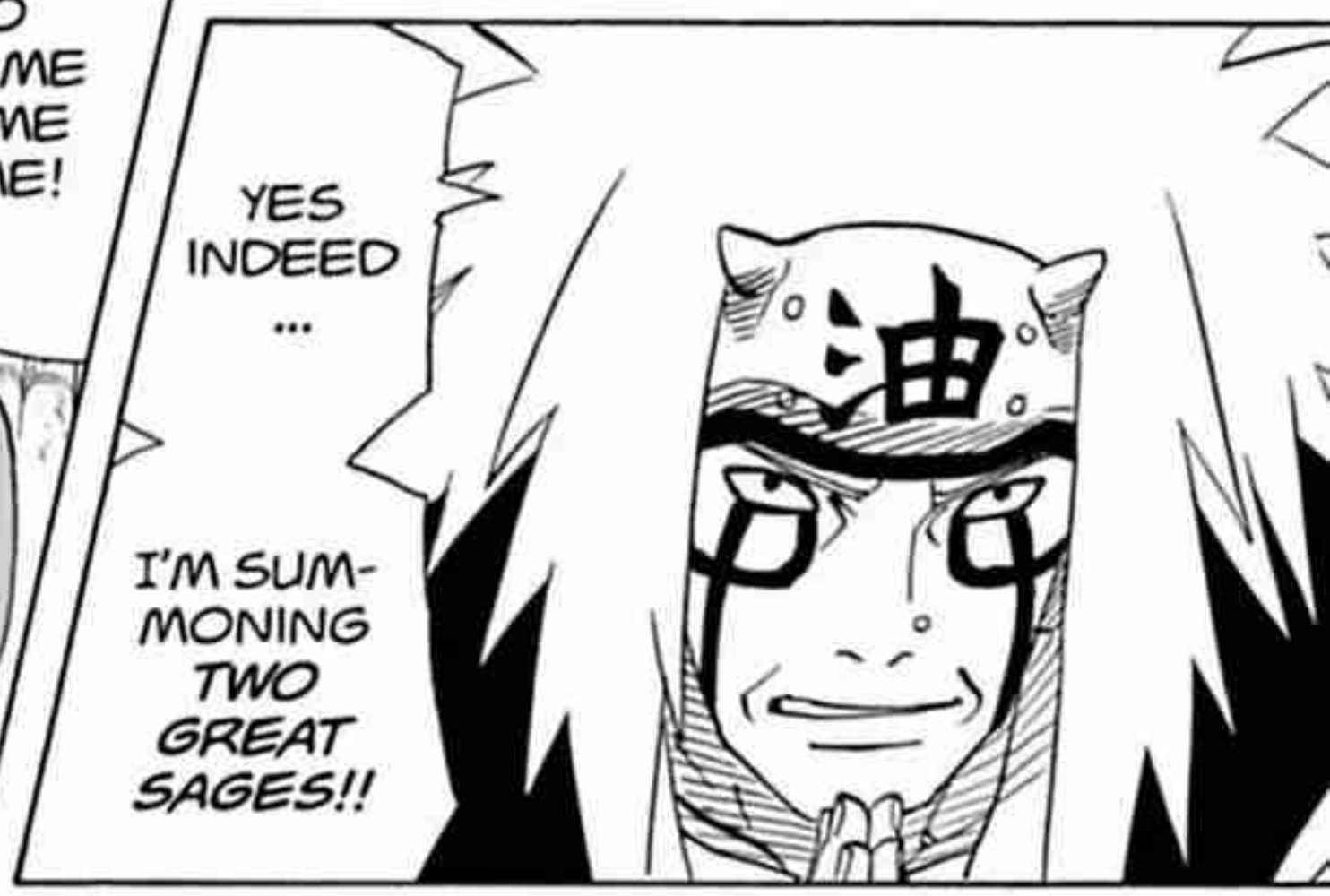
NARUTO

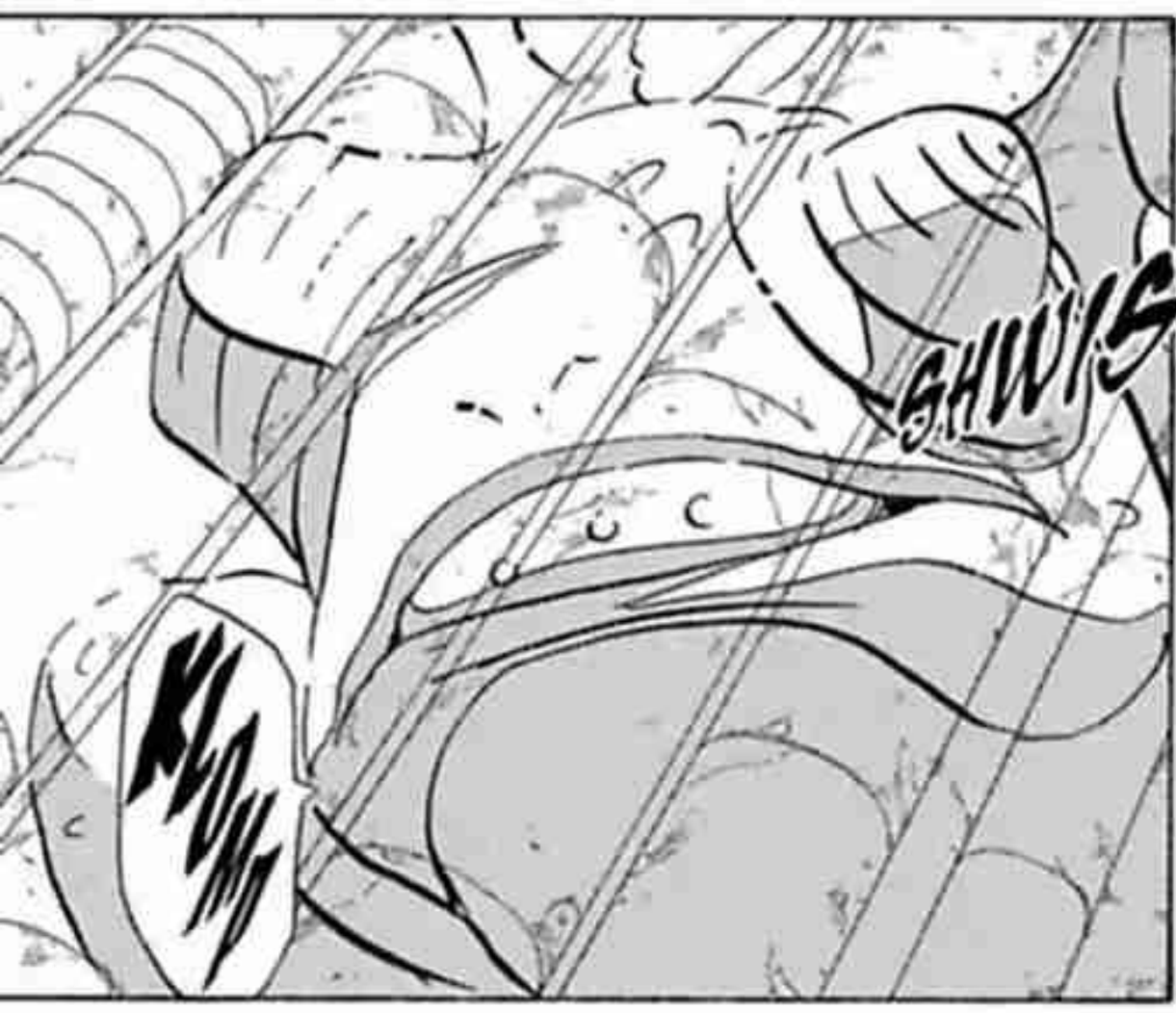
Number 375: Two Great Sages...!!



I'M USING THE HONORED SAGE MODE!!

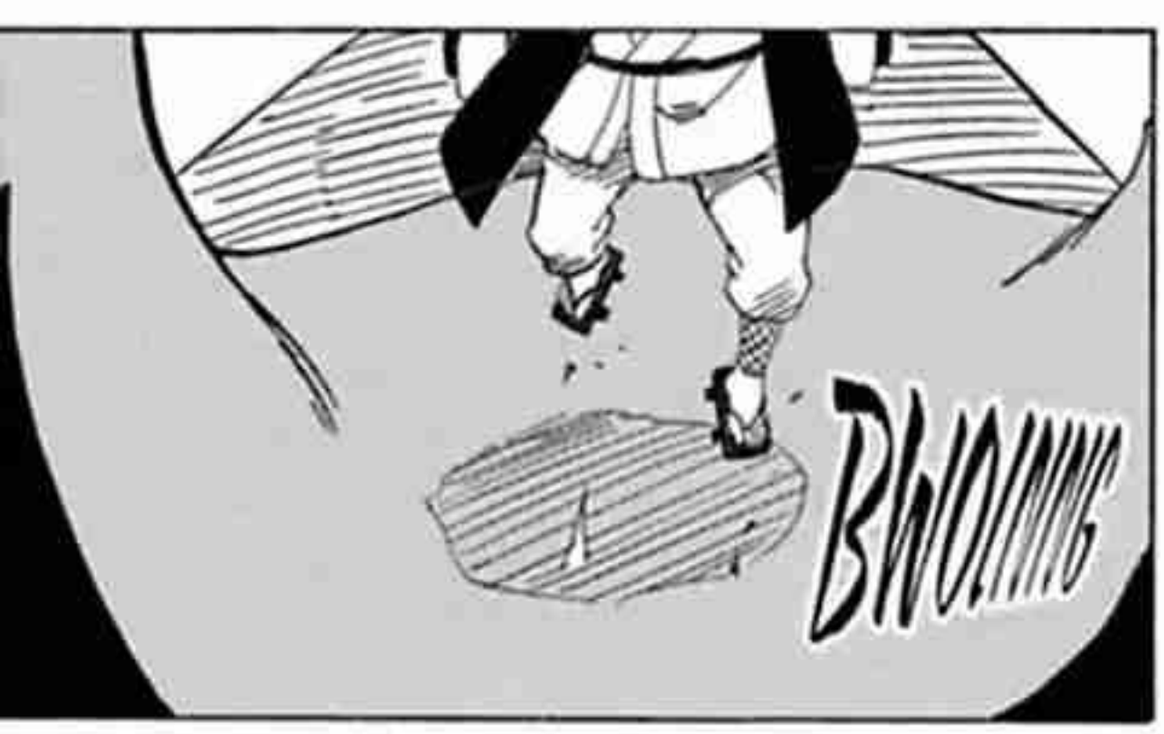
Number 375: Two Great Sages!!



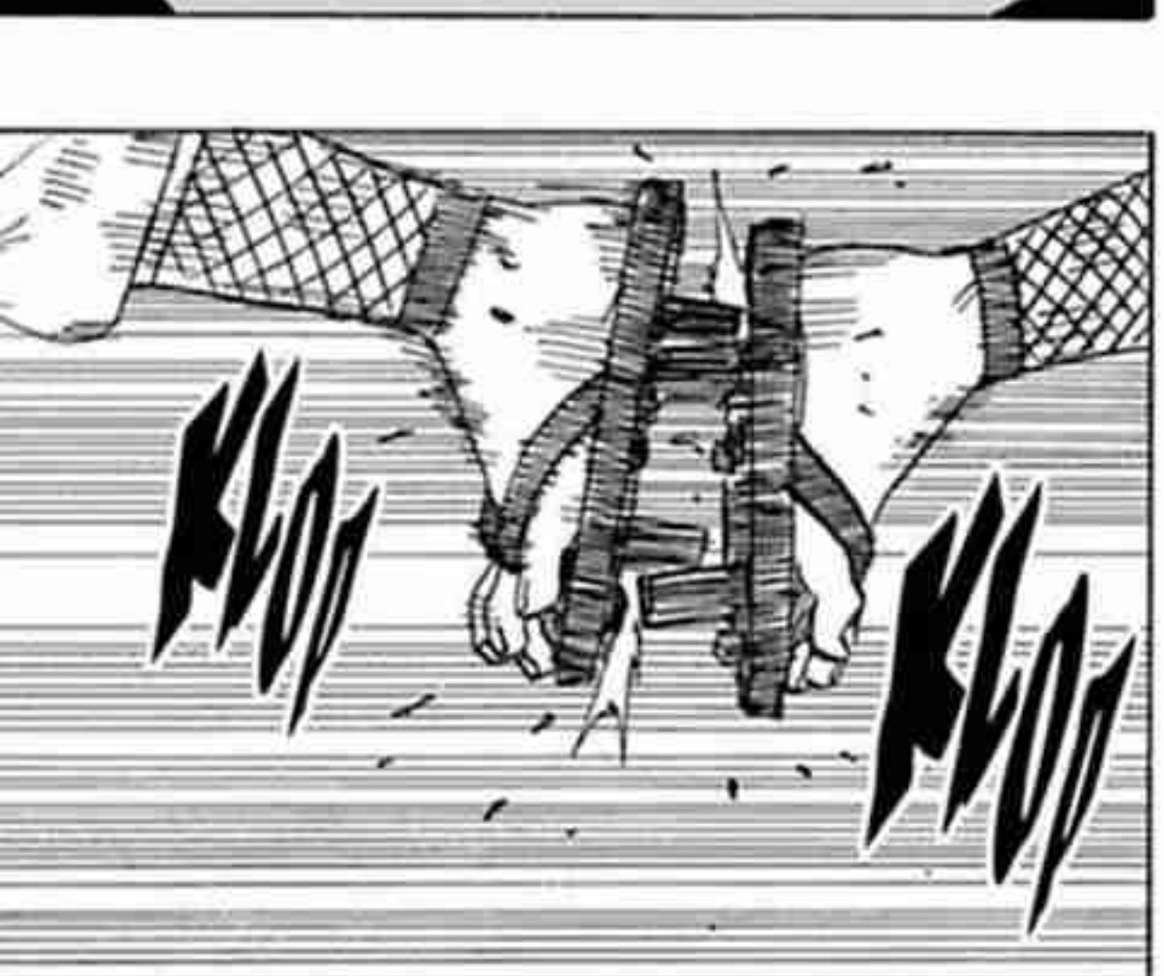

KLOP

GHWISSST

WHAT A BOTHER... WHERE IN THE WORLD DID HE FIND SUCH A CREATURE ...?
油
HE VANISHED ...!


BWOIING

NOW THAT HE'S MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE, WE'VE GOT TO USE BARRIER BATTLE ARTS.
HMM... NOT THE EASIEST...


KLOP
KLOP

SUSHU

WOO

BZZZ

WOOO

WOO...

READ THIS WAY
!
AS I RECALL, THIS IS A BARRIER NINJUTSU THAT SENSES AND ALERTS ANY INTRUSION ACROSS ITS BOUNDARY...
GROWR
HE SAW THE BARRIER AND SWITCHED TO A STRONGLY OFFENSIVE CRITTER!

THUNK
BLAH
THOOM
THOOM

THD
THD
THD
THD

WAAH!
THK
THK
THK

BUT I AM UNGRACE-FUL.
HEY! CAN'T YOU BE A BIT SMOOTHER ?!
SHRK
FUMP
ARE THEY DOGGIES BOUND TO A SELF-REPLICATING SUMMONING JUTSU?!
THEY SEEM TO MULTIPLY EACH TIME YOU CLOBBER THEM...
...I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT IT EVEN IS.

GRR-RRR-RR...

READ THIS WAY
THUD
CLOD
GRAAK
ABOVE YOU!!
!!
!
ARGH!

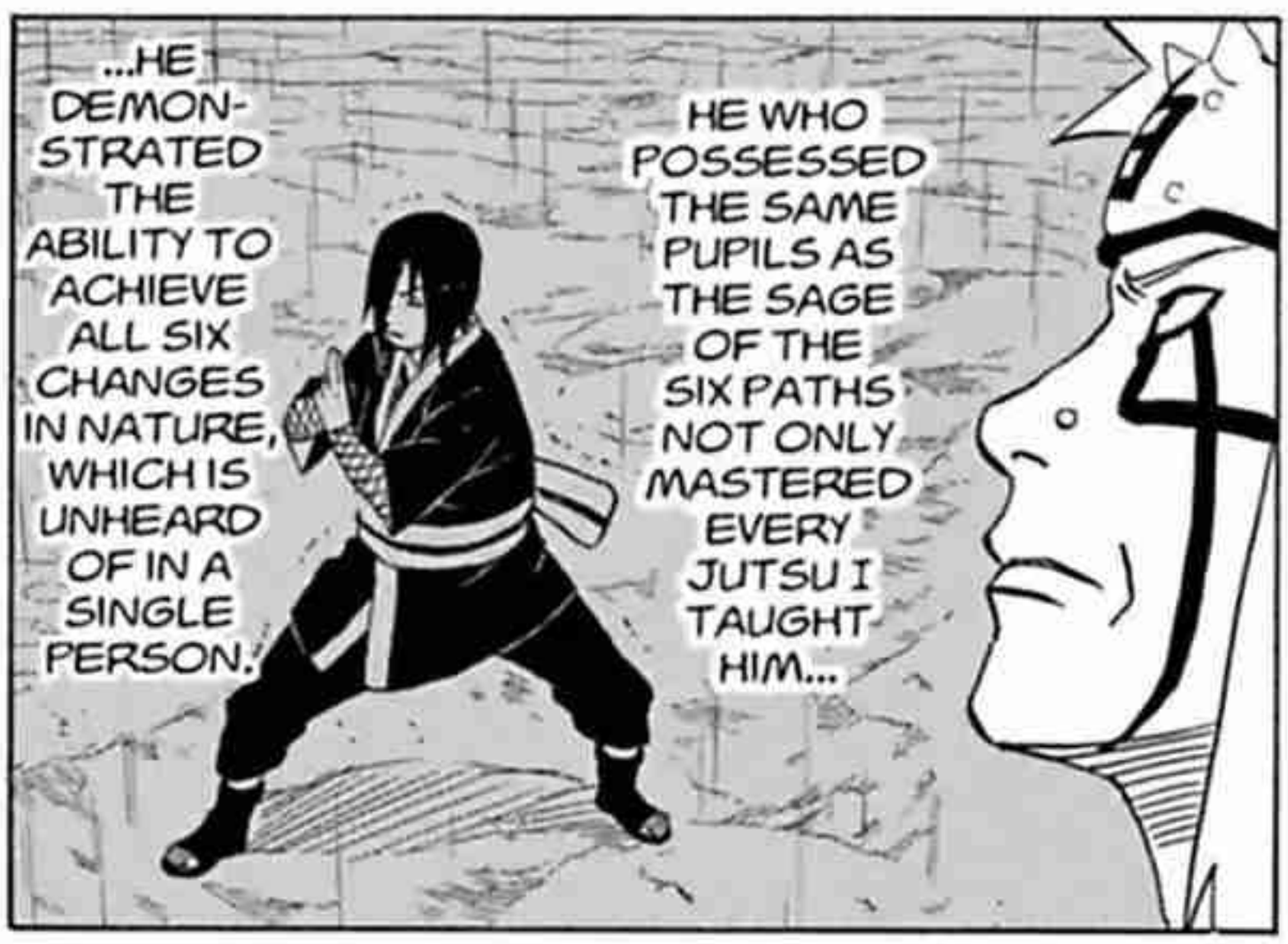
USH
GH
CK

BWA

BO
OH

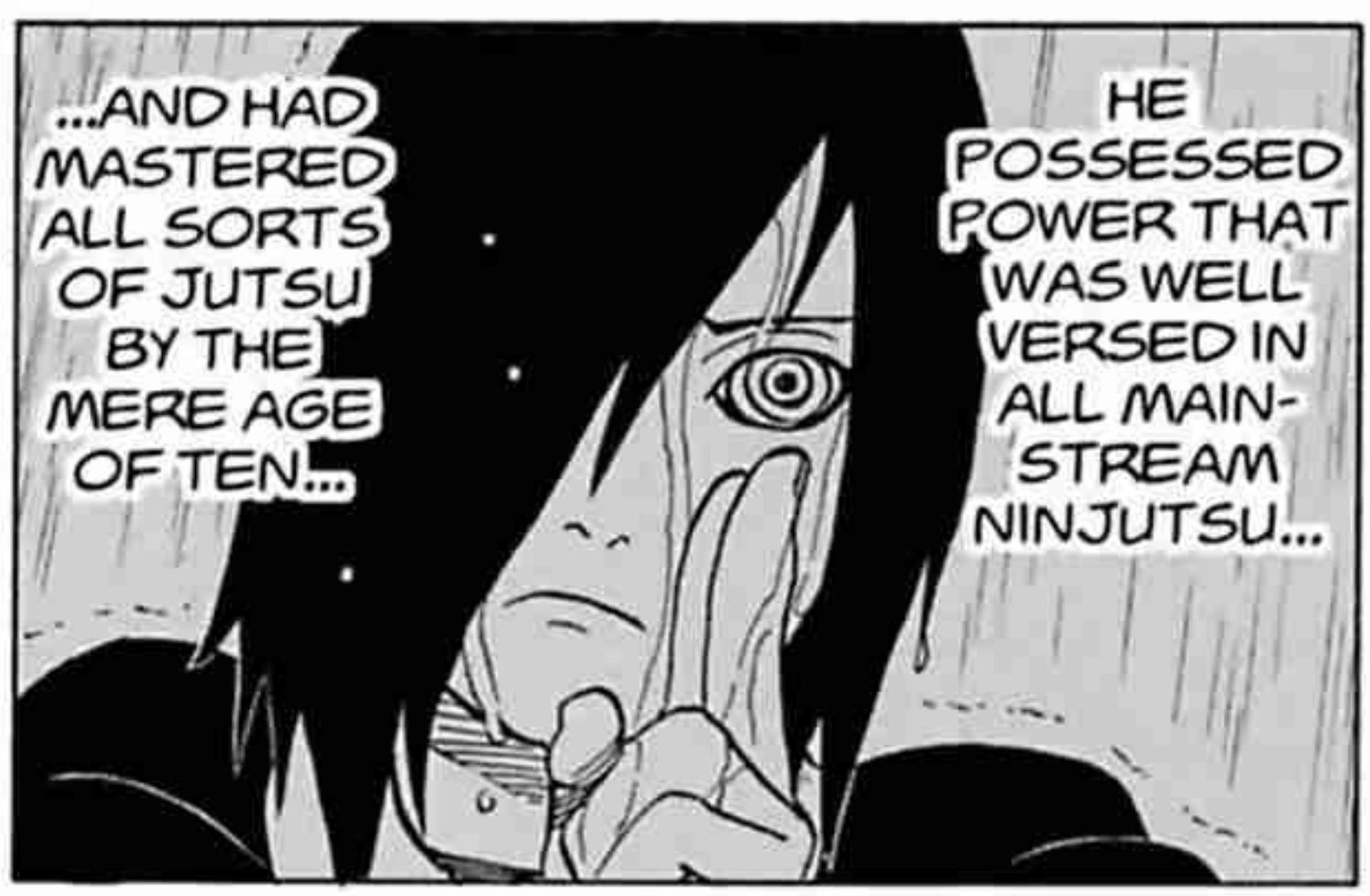
...DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S SOME-THING ODD?
MISTER GAMAKEN ...

I WANT TO ATTACK THE CASTER, BUT I NEED TO BE ABLE TO SEE HIM!
AND I THINK THESE SUMMONED CRITTERS ARE MERELY DISTRACTIONS TO FURTHER OBFUSCATE HIS LOCATION.
TMP


...HE DEMON-STRATED THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE ALL SIX CHANGES IN NATURE, WHICH IS UNHEARD OF IN A SINGLE PERSON.
HE WHO POSSESSED THE SAME PUPILS AS THE SAGE OF THE SIX PATHS NOT ONLY MASTERED EVERY JUTSU I TAUGHT HIM...

I - I AM TOO UNGRACEFUL TO APPRECI-ATE WHAT YOU MEAN?

AND YET... WHY...
!

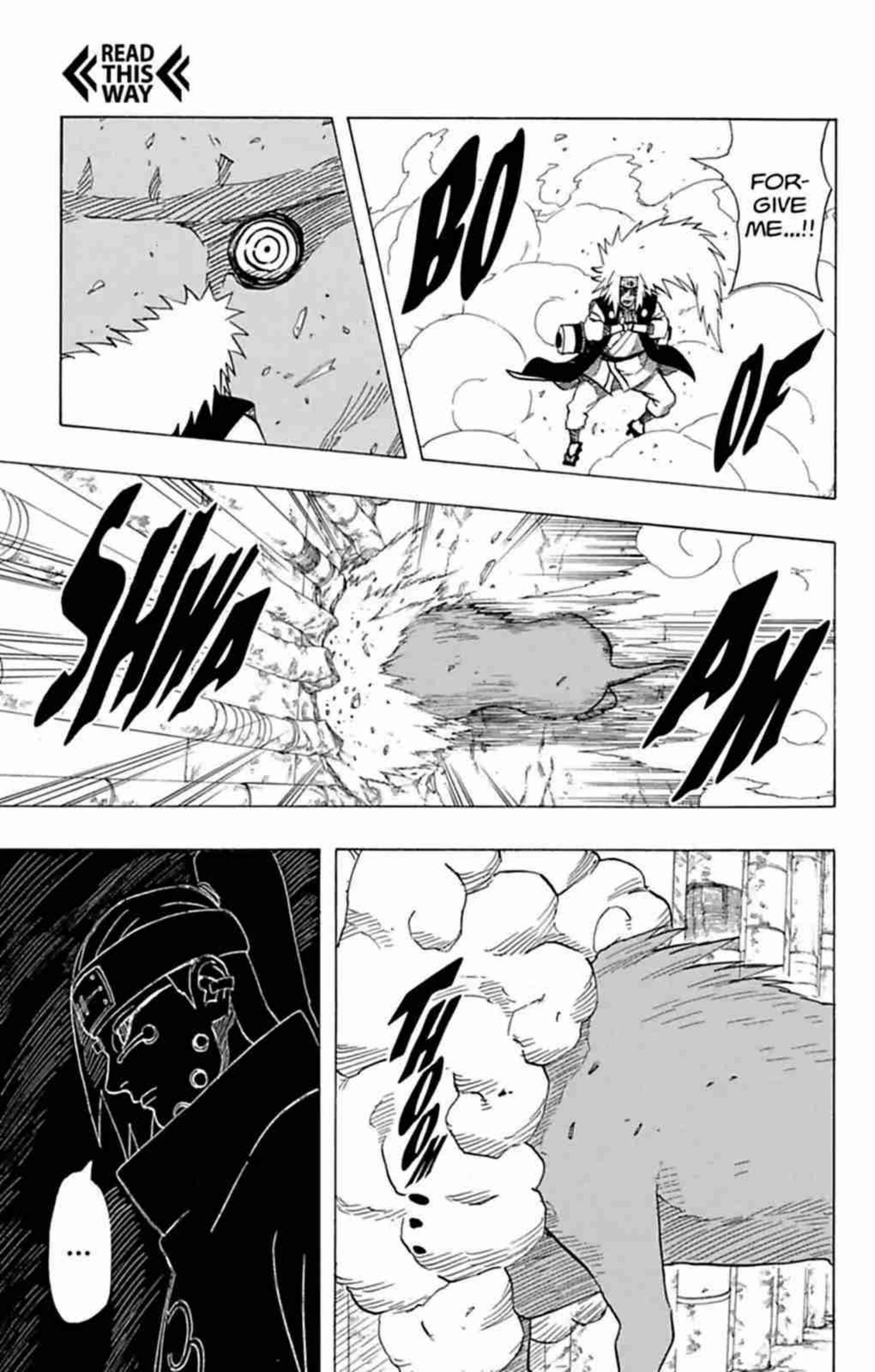

...AND HAD MASTERED ALL SORTS OF JUTSU BY THE MERE AGE OF TEN...
HE POSSESSED POWER THAT WAS WELL VERSED IN ALL MAIN-STREAM NINJUTSU...

WHY IS HE ONLY USING SUMMONING JUTSU AGAINST ME?!

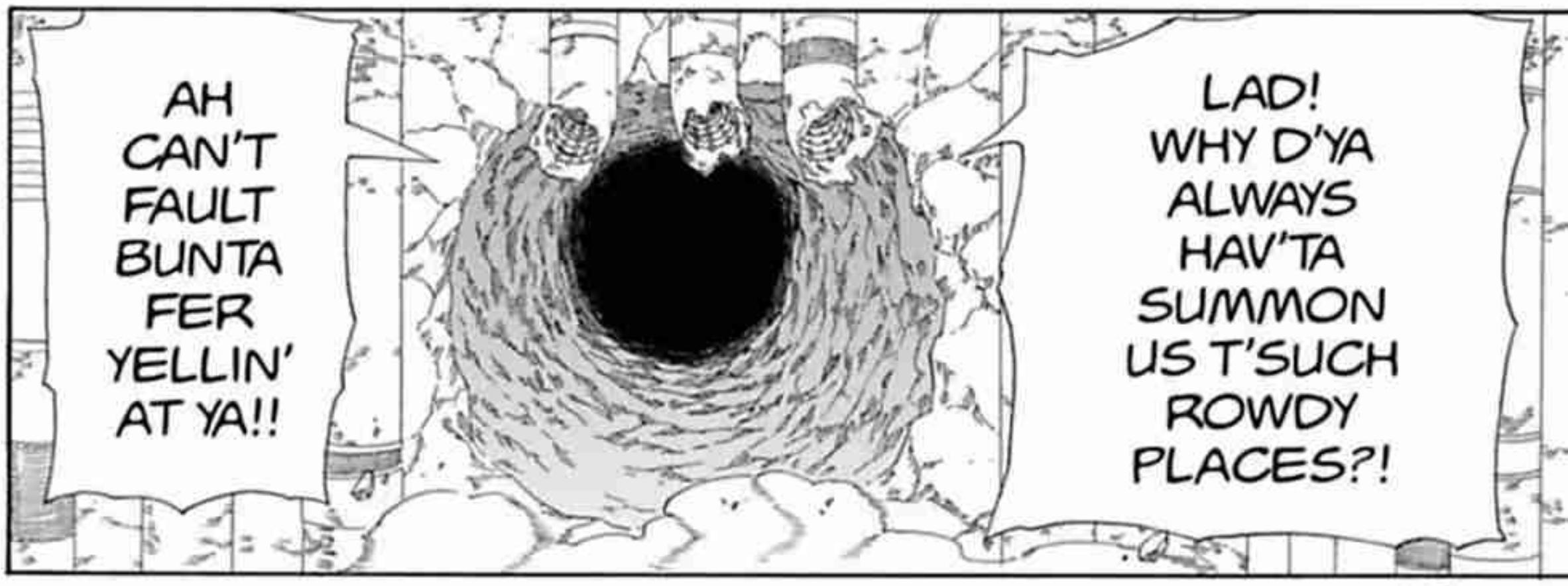
I'VE GOT IT FROM HERE!!

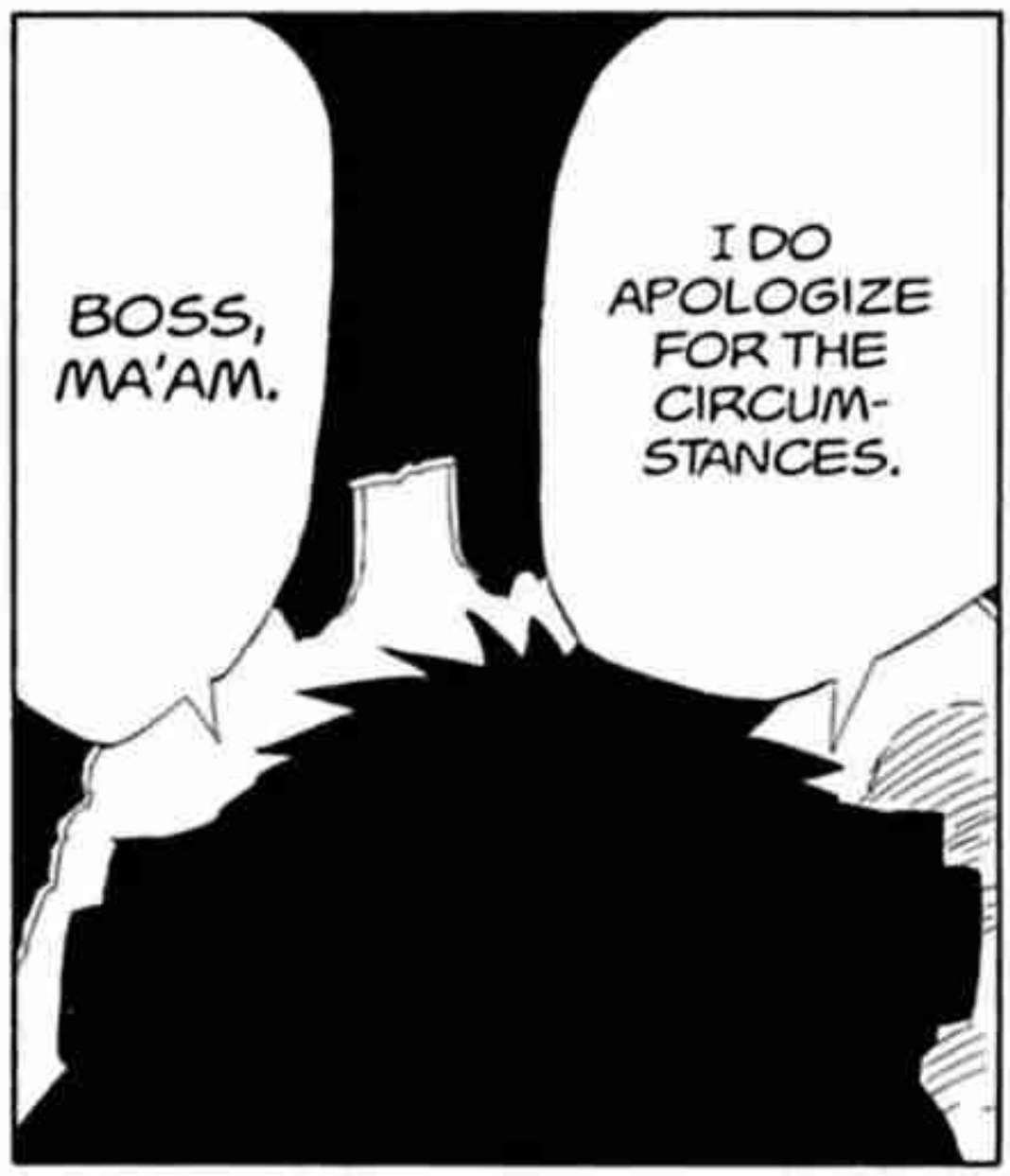
MISTER GAMAKEN, GO HOME!

DOES HE THINK I AM BENEATH THE NEED FOR DIRECT CONFRONTATION?

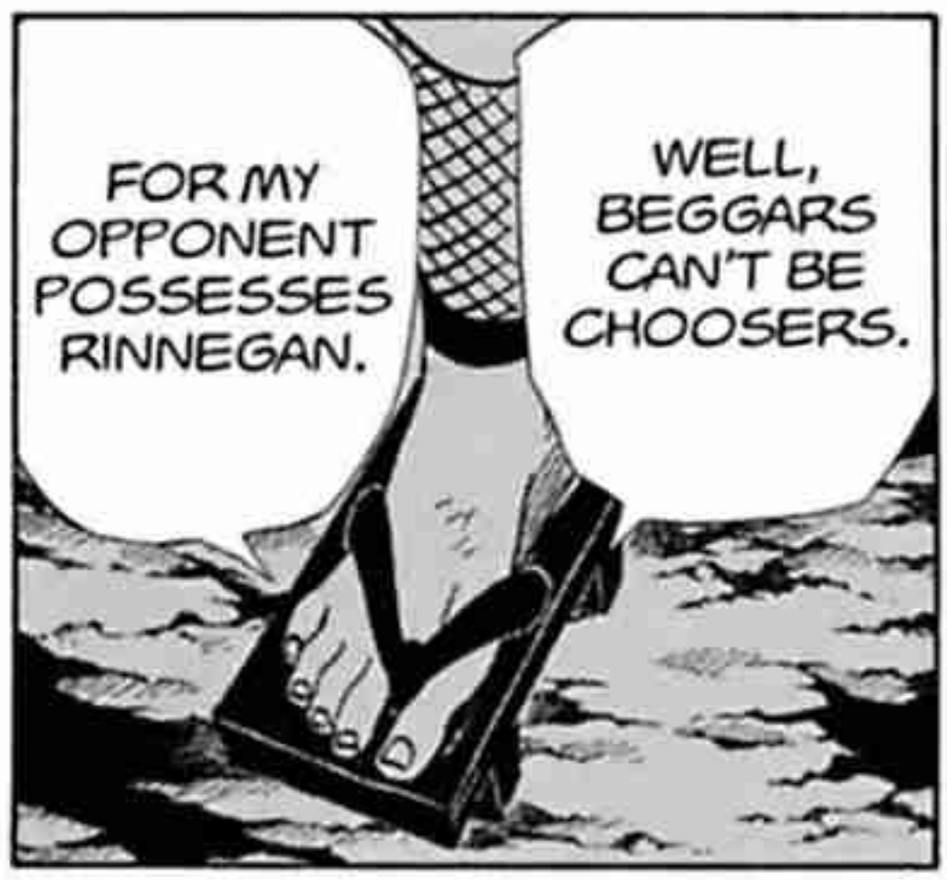

READ THIS WAY
BO
FOR-GIVE ME...!!
OF
SHHA
SHA
...
TH
OW

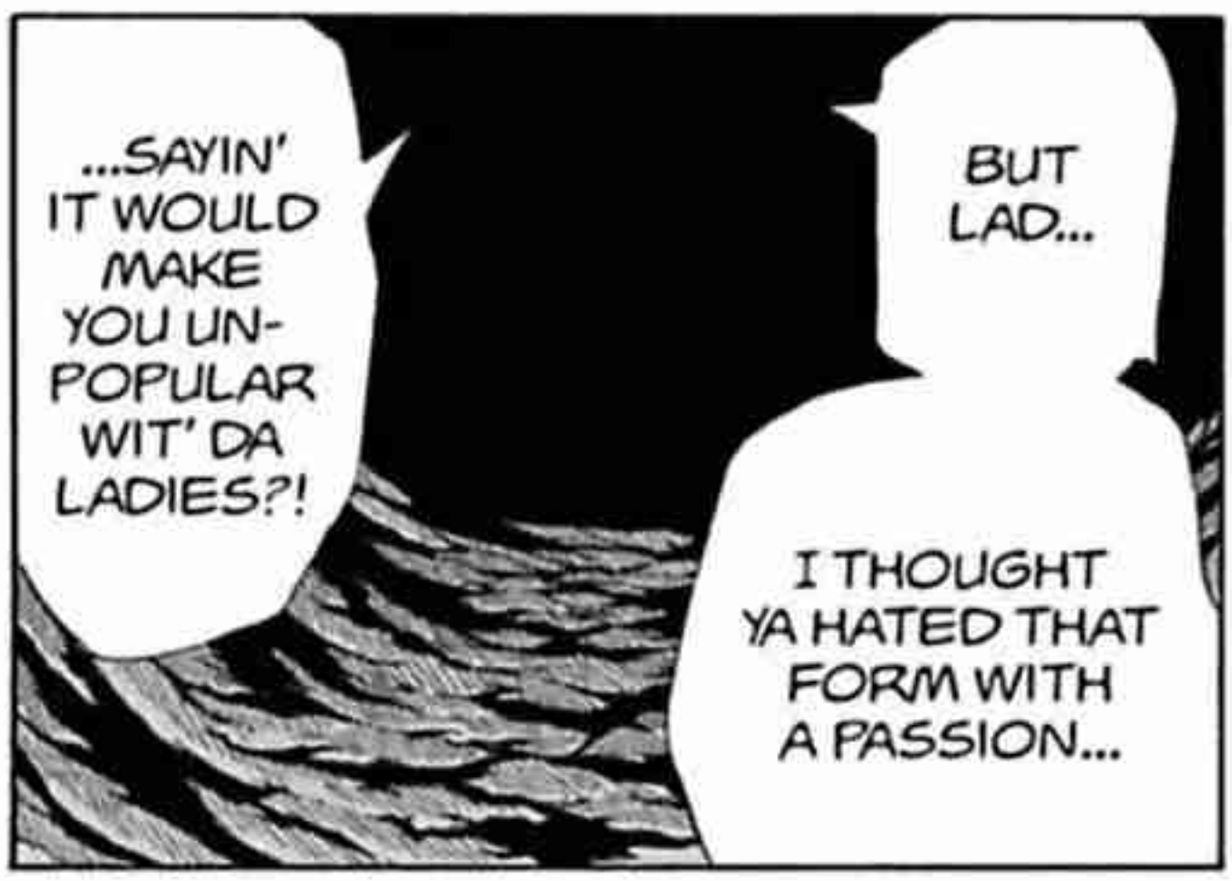
!!
BO
OF


AH CAN'T FAULT BUNTA FER YELLIN' AT YA!!
LAD! WHY D'YA ALWAYS HAV'TA SUMMON US T'SUCH ROWDY PLACES?!

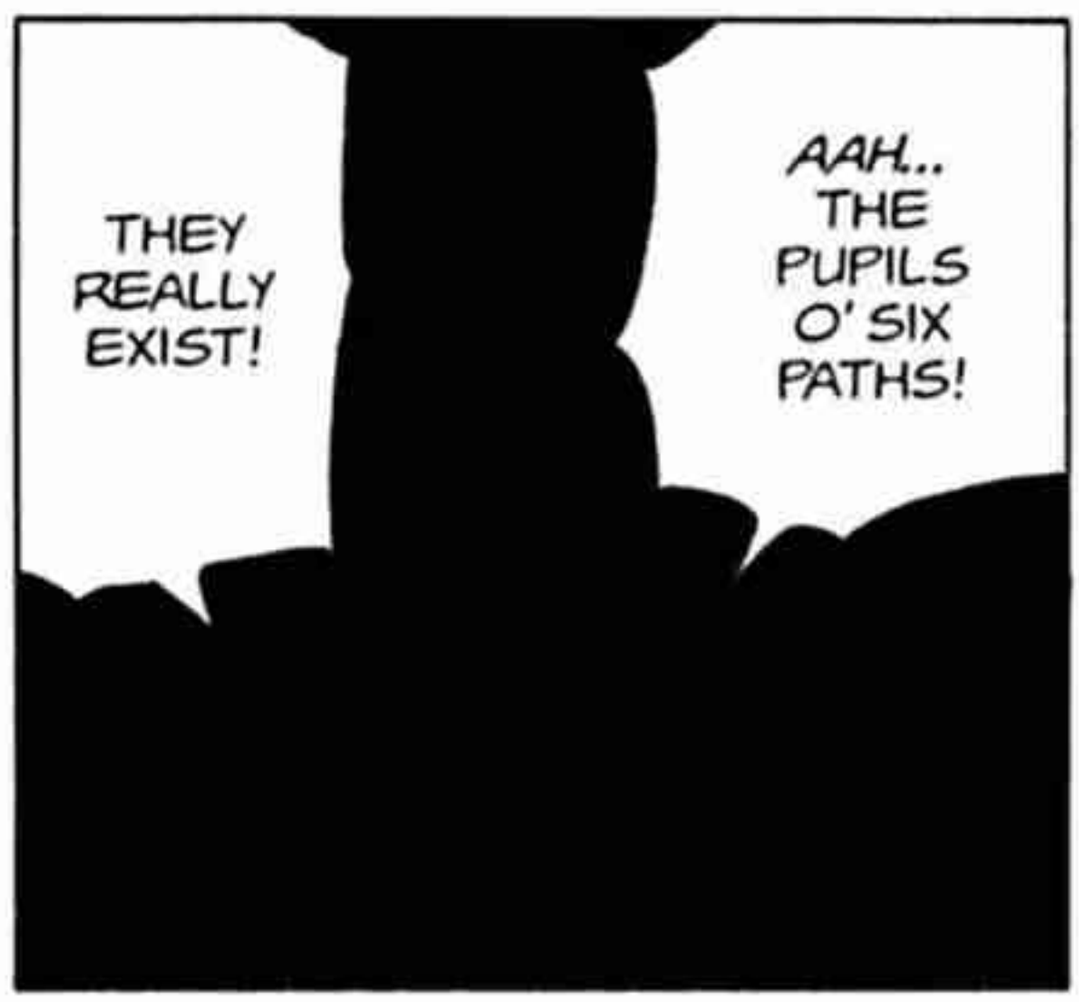

BOSS, MA'AM.
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THE CIRCUM-STANCES.

AH'M SURE JIRAIYA-BOY'S DONE GOT HIS REASONS.
NOW, NOW, MA, LET 'EM BE.
SHUT YER YAP, PA!!


FOR MY OPPONENT POSSESSES RINNEGAN.
WELL, BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.


...SAYIN' IT WOULD MAKE YOU UN-POPULAR WIT' DA LADIES?!
BUT LAD...
I THOUGHT YA HATED THAT FORM WITH A PASSION...

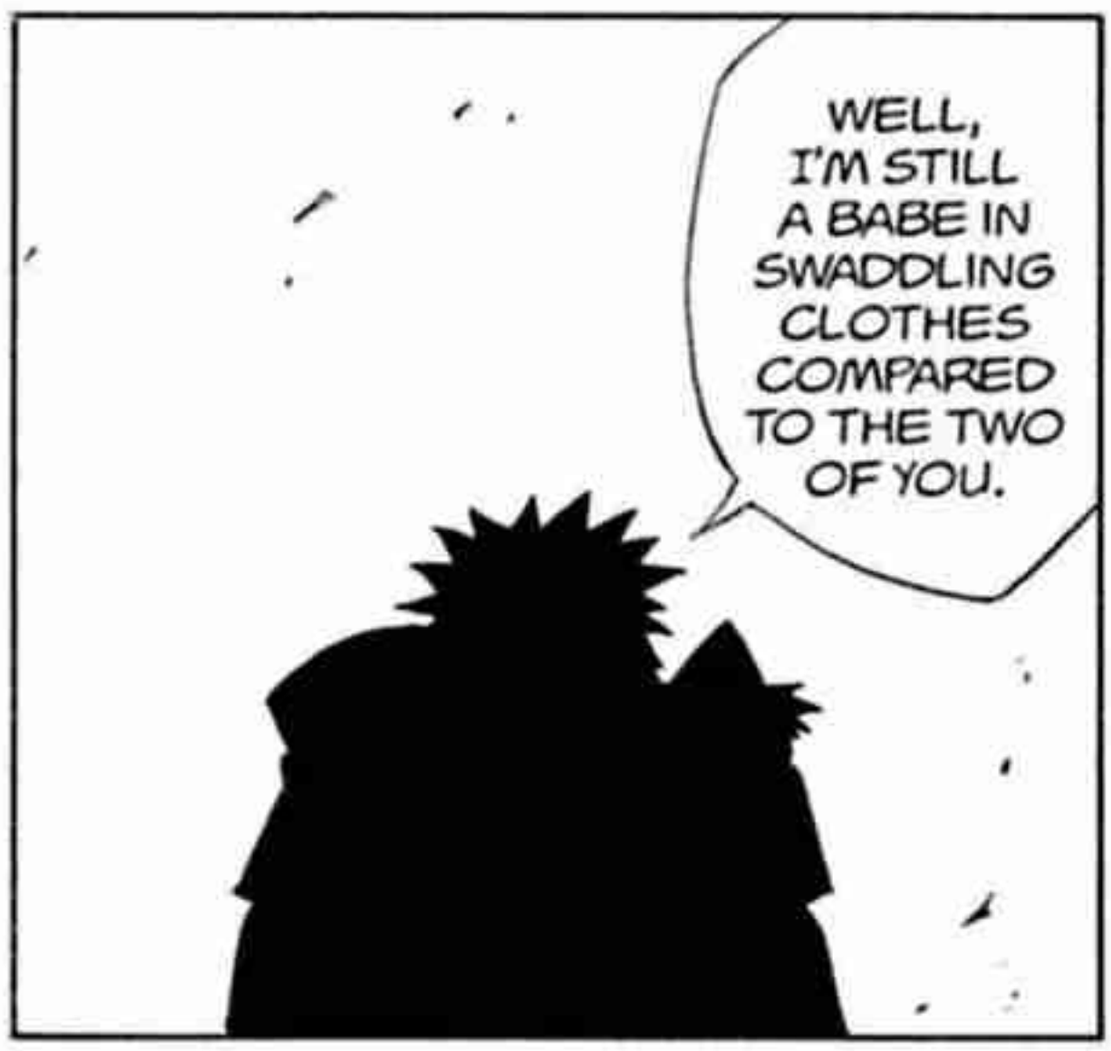
SO PLEASE LEND ME YOUR AID FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE.
YES.

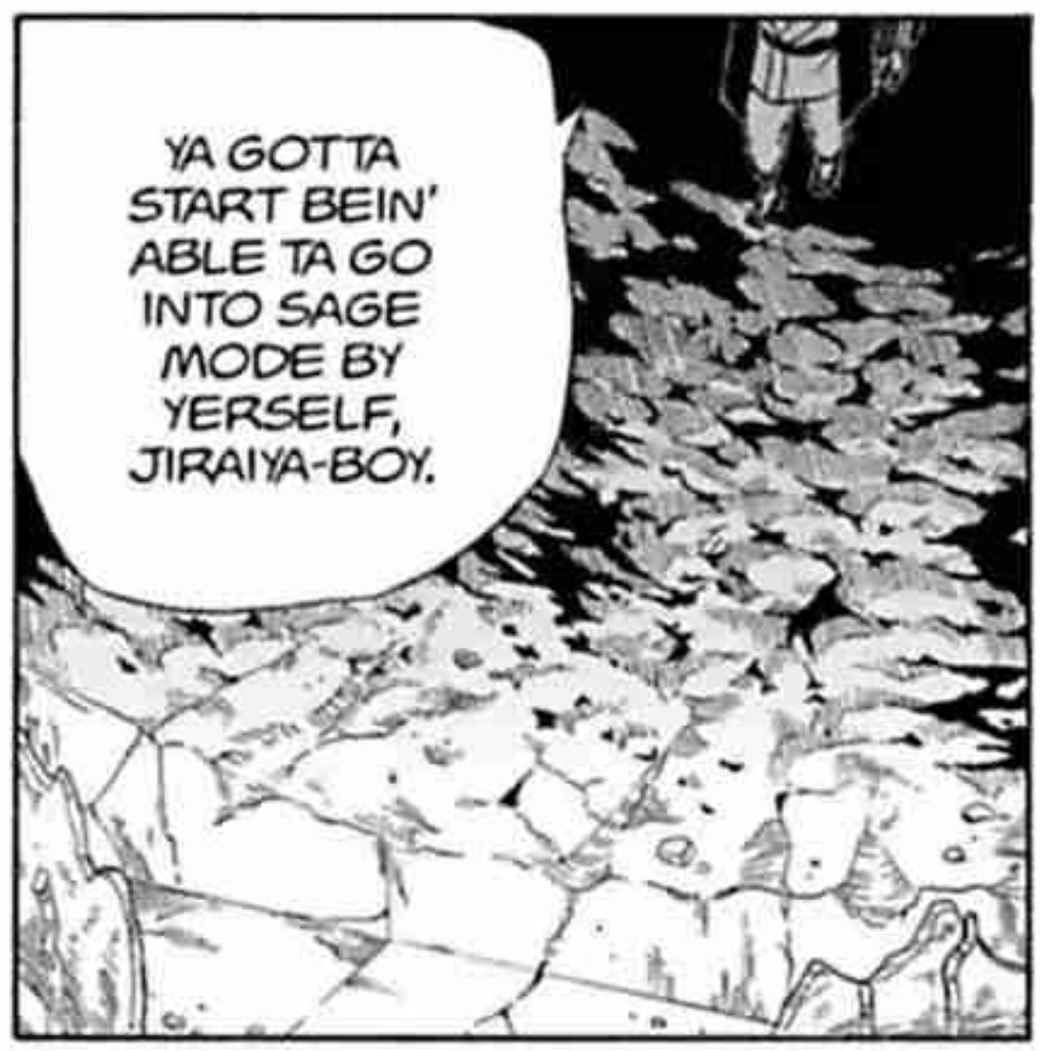

THEY REALLY EXIST!
AAH... THE PUPILS O' SIX PATHS!

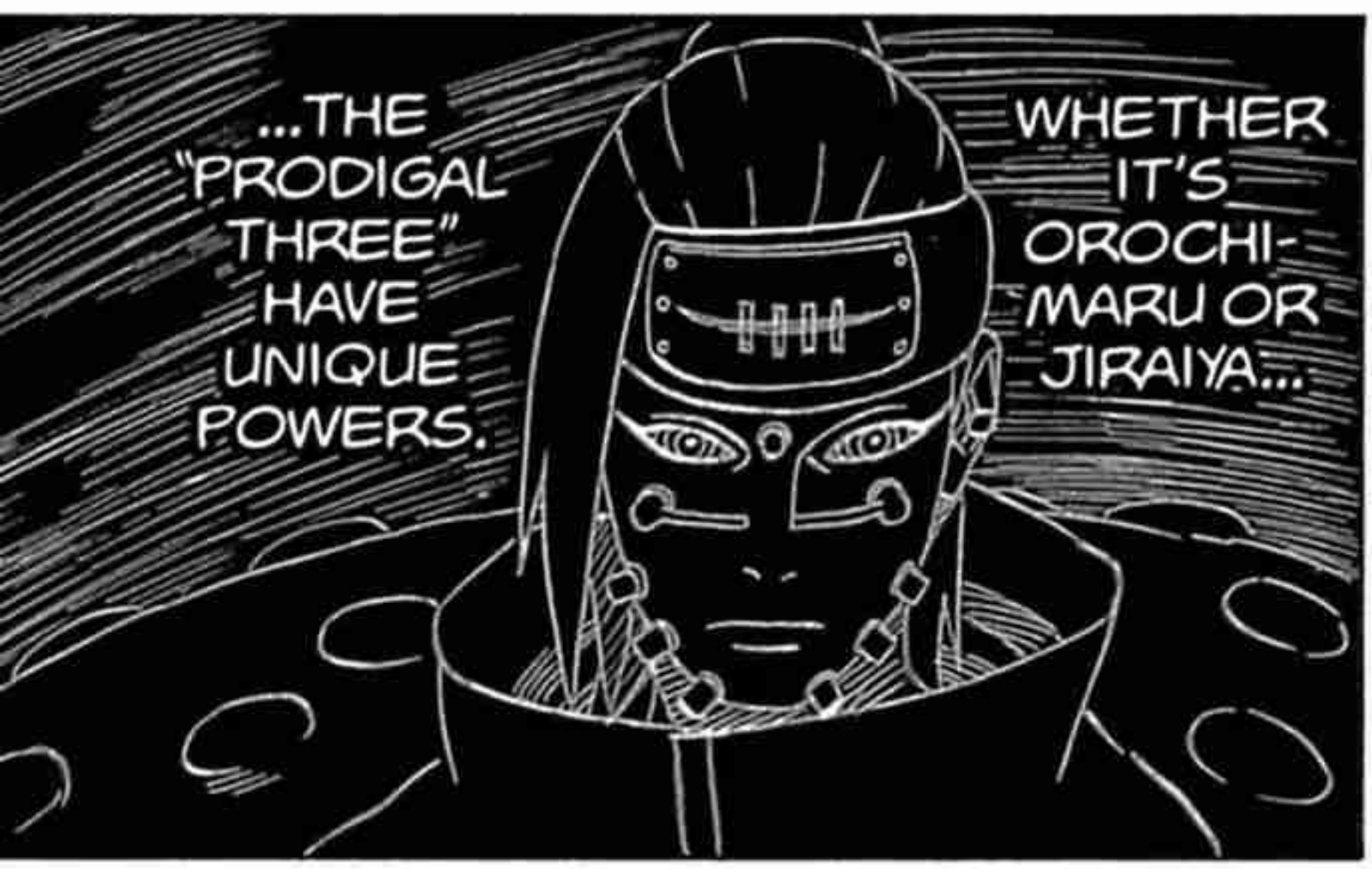
KRAK
SHALL WE BEGIN?

NARUTO

Number 376: Child of Prophecy!!

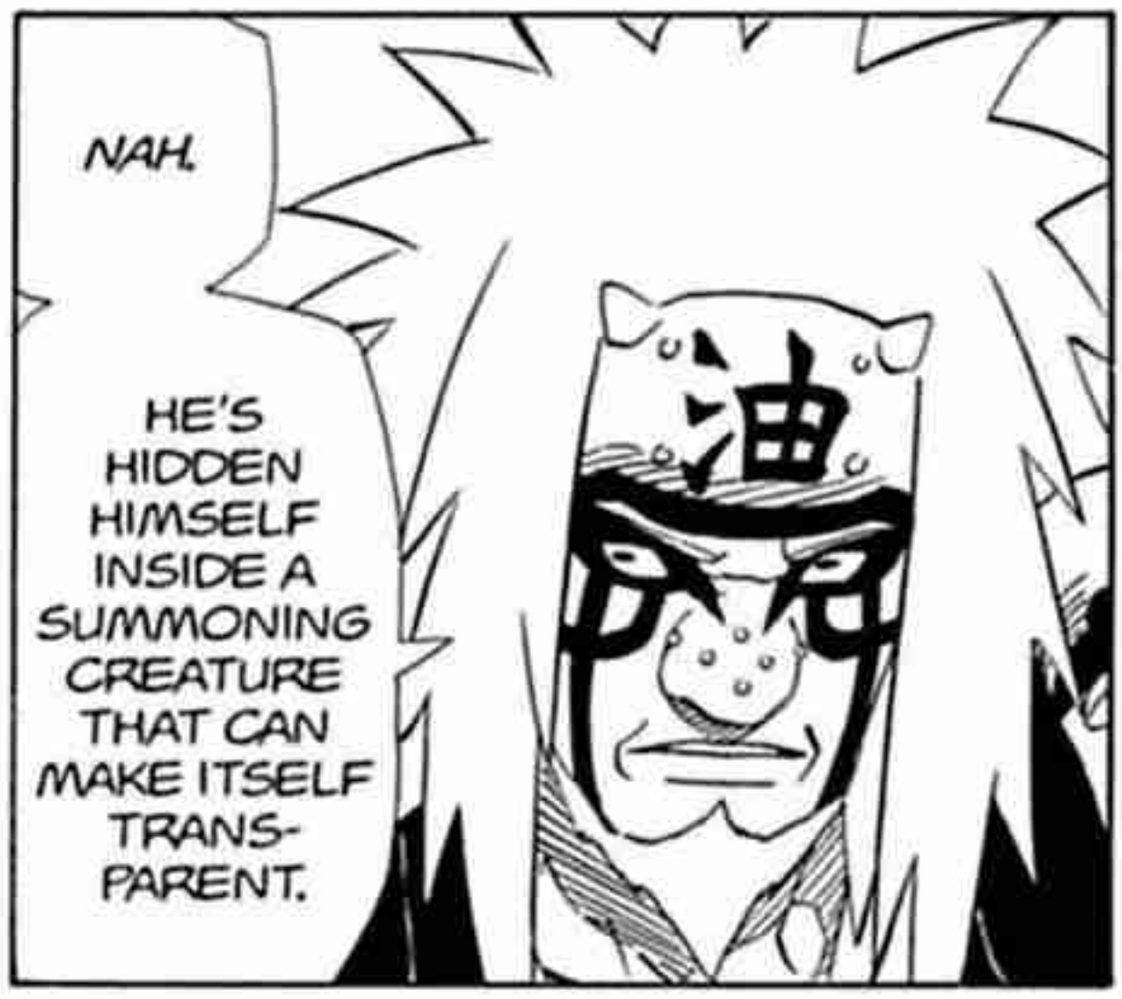






Number 376: Child of Prophecy!!

IT'S GOTTA BE ONE OF DEM DERE CHAMELEON SPECIES.


NAH.
HE'S HIDDEN HIMSELF INSIDE A SUMMONING CREATURE THAT CAN MAKE ITSELF TRANS-PARENT.

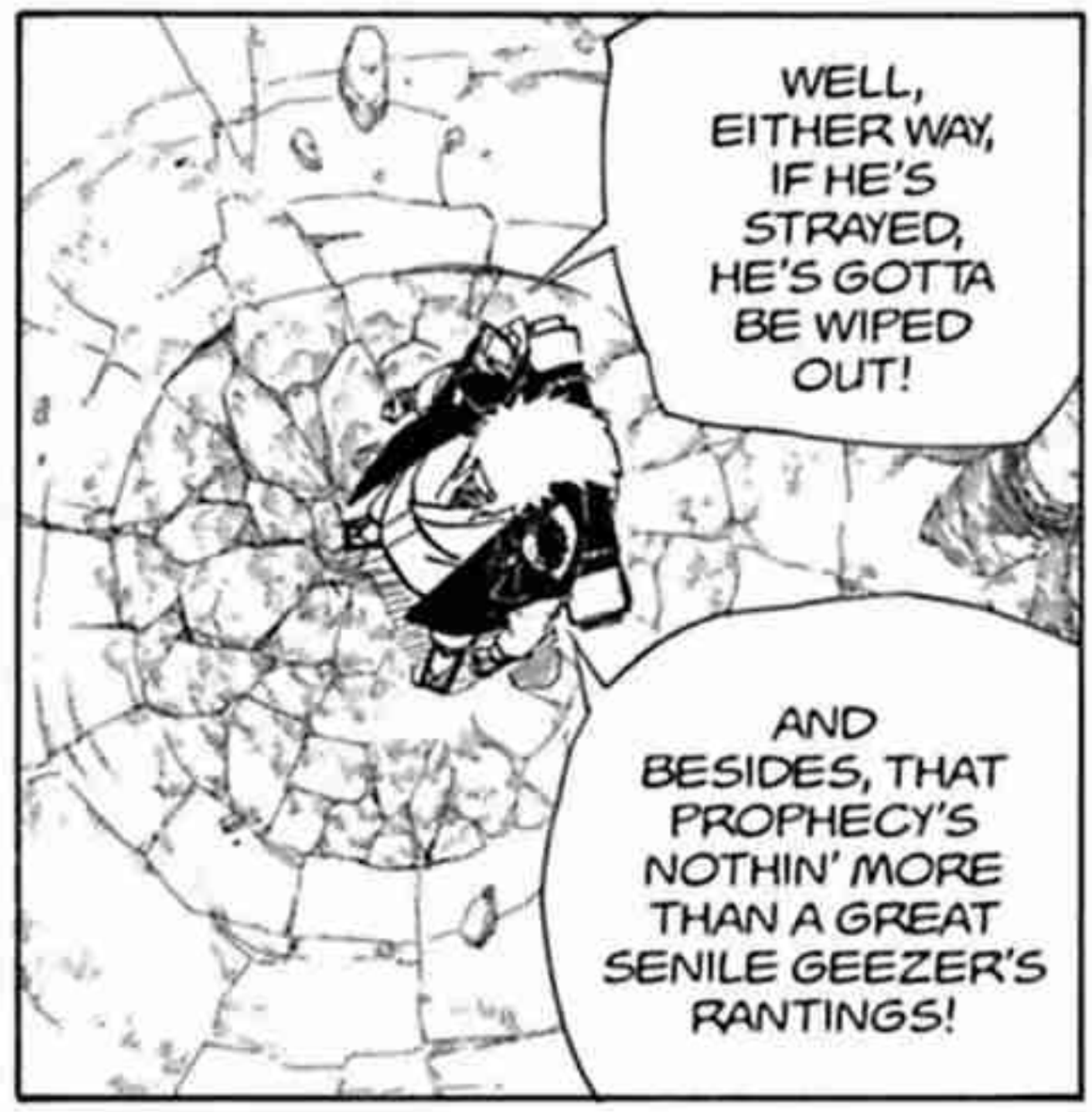
LET'S DRAG 'EM OUT USING CREATURE DETECTION JUTSU!
THAT JUST MAINTAINS STALE-MATE!

I HAVE ERECTED A PROBE BARRIER.

...WHY'D YA HAV'TA FIGHT SUCH AN ORNERY FELLER ANYWAYS?
BUT JIRAIYA-BOY...

NOW MA, DON'T GET SO EXCITED, YER GONNA GET MORE WRINKLES.
YOU SHUT YER TRAP, PA!!

HE'S A FORMER STUDENT OF MINE...


WELL, EITHER WAY, IF HE'S STRAYED, HE'S GOTTA BE WIPED OUT!
AND BESIDES, THAT PROPHECY'S NOTHIN' MORE THAN A GREAT SENILE GEEZER'S RANTINGS!

IT SEEMS HE DIDN'T TAKE THE CORRECT PATH TO MATURITY.
...AND WHEN I HEARD HE HAD DIED... I THOUGHT HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE ONE.

ZZZZ

SO HERE I COME!
POP

PLNP

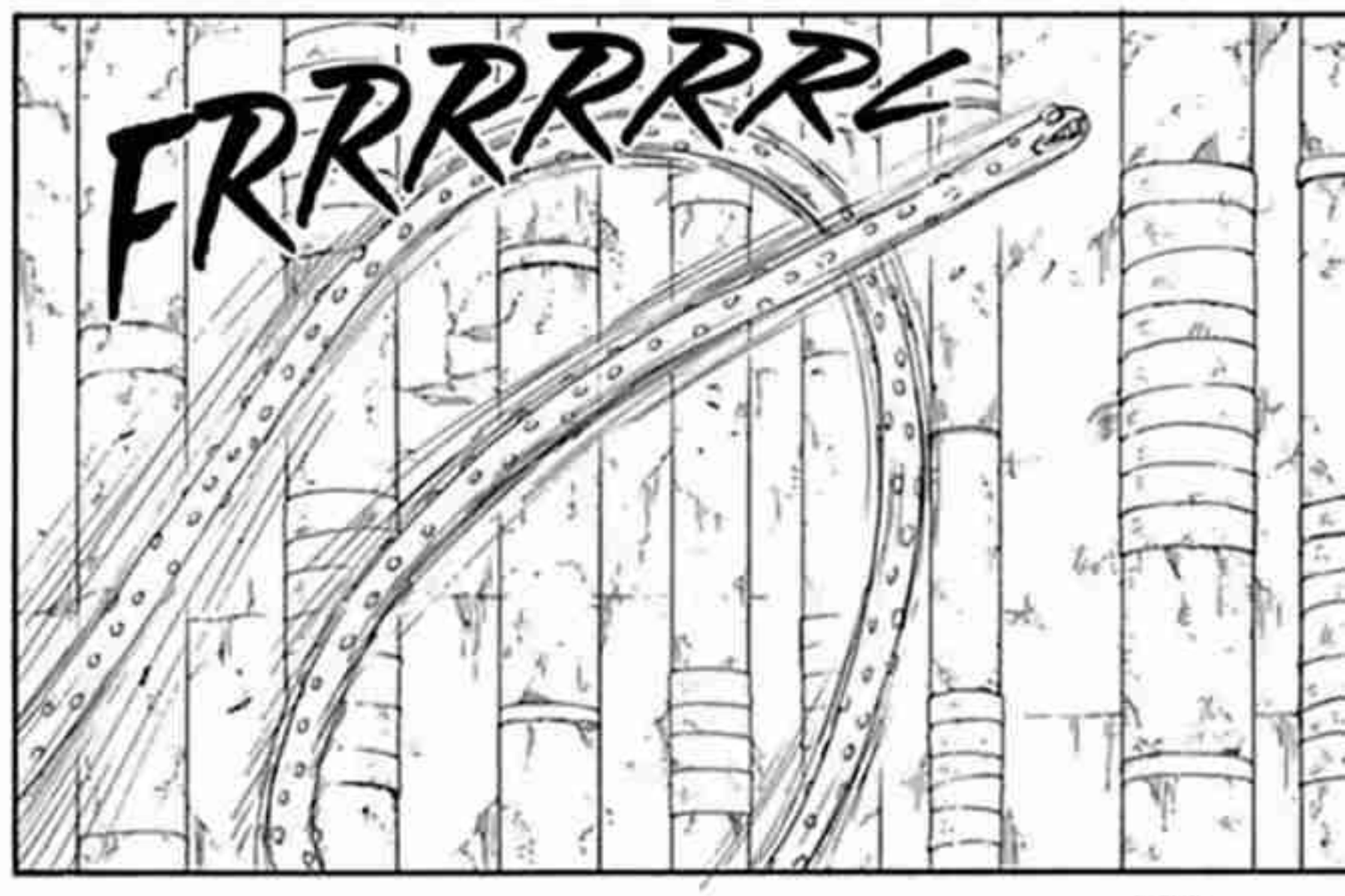
SNFF SNFF
FOUND 'EM!

WHSO
SHOOK

TMP

FAST!
!

GOT 'EM!


FRRRRRRC

GWA-GWAA !!

ZIZZLE...

BLAP BLAP BLAP

PA!!

BWAAH

SHAK

YO!
SPLASH
DZZ-THANG
SPLORK
THUD THUD THUD THUD

WHAT NASTY EYES...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S THAT CHILD O' PROPHECY.
THAT'S THE RINNEGAN?
IT SURE DO LOOK LIKE DA LEGENDS SAY.

BOOF

油
JIRAIYA, THE GREAT LORD ELDER HAS SUMMONED YOU.
DON'T KEEP HIM WAITING.
THE GREAT TOAD SAGE...?
THERE'S BEEN A PROPHECY ABOUT YOU!
AS SUM-MONED.
SWSH
仙
...FOR REAL, BUNTA ?!

UHHH-MMM...

AAH, WELCOME! WELCOME!

油

仙

AAH... THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT! MY, YOU SURE HAVE GROWN...

YA GREAT SENILE GEEZER!

GAH, YOU'RE DA ONE WHO SUM-MONED HIM.

JIRAIYA, GREAT LORD ELDER, JIRAIYA!

...WHO'RE YOU AGAIN?

NOW, NOW, NO QUARREL-ING.

SPOUSES OUGHTA GET ALONG.

油

MA, HOW DARE YA CALL THE GREAT LORD ELDER A SENILE OLD GEEZER!!

NOW THEN... UUHHM, WHO'RE YOU, AGAIN?

YESSIR!

AS YOU KNOW, IT'S ONE OF DEM PROPHECIES.

LISTEN CLOSELY.

JIRAIYA-BOY.

THE GREAT LORD ELDER HAS SEEN A DREAM 'BOUT YOU.

CAN'T BELIEVE HE REMEMBERS THAT PARTICULAR DETAIL...

SOLELY PERVY...?

IN MY DREAM, YOU, WHO ARE SOLELY PERVY, WILL STILL MANAGE TO BECOME A SPLENDID SHINOBI.

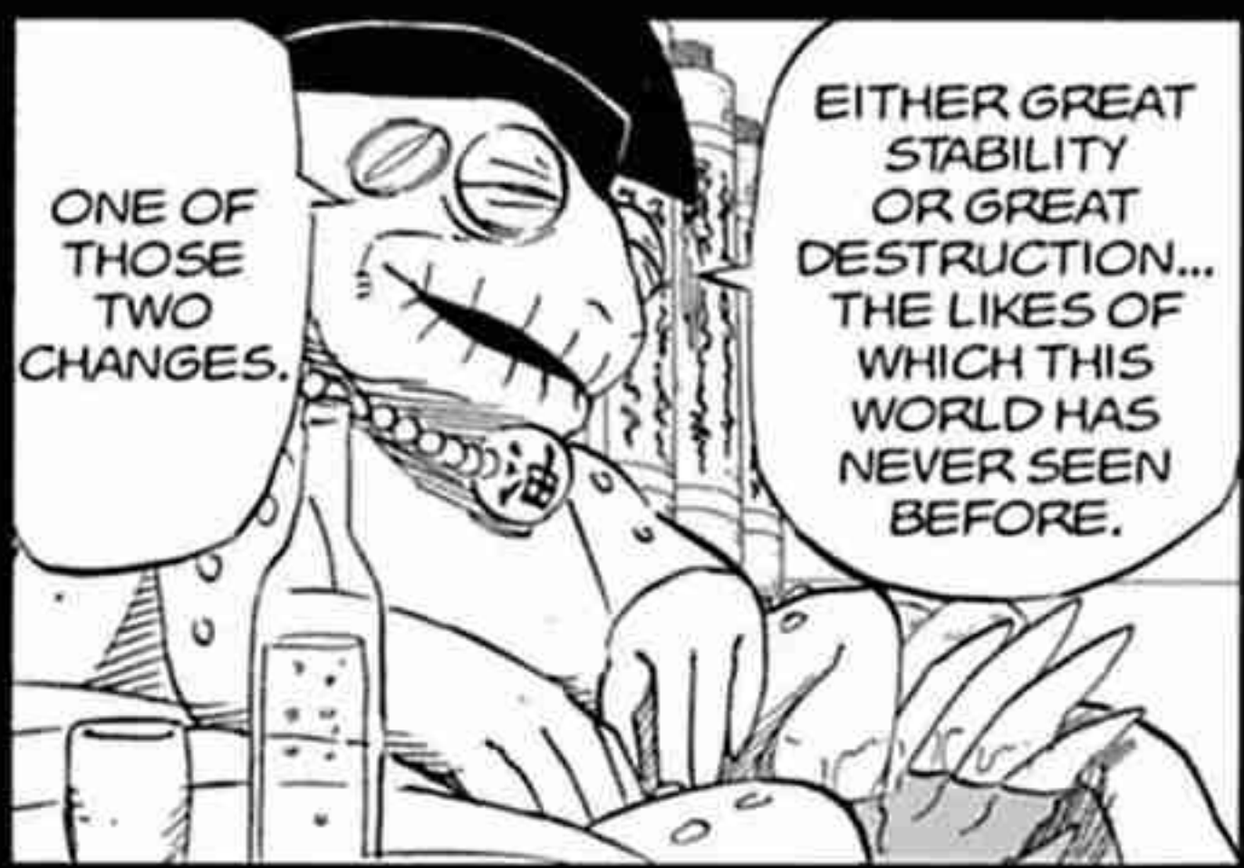
AND WILL COME TO STAND ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET, ACQUIRING DISCIPLES...

HERE IT IS REVEALED ...

A GREAT CHANGE?

THIS I SAW IN MY DREAM.
ONE SUCH DISCIPLE WILL ONE DAY BRING ABOUT A GREAT CHANGE TO THE WORLD OF SHINOBI.

ONE OF THOSE TWO...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

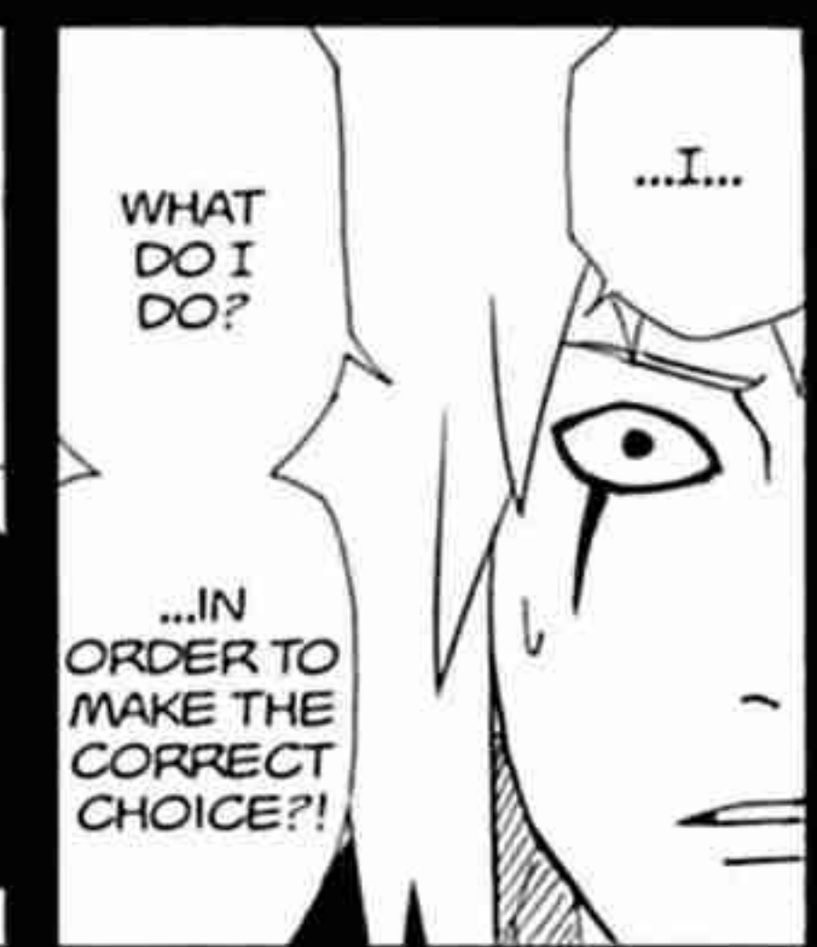

ONE OF THOSE TWO CHANGES.
EITHER GREAT STABILITY OR GREAT DESTRUCTION... THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

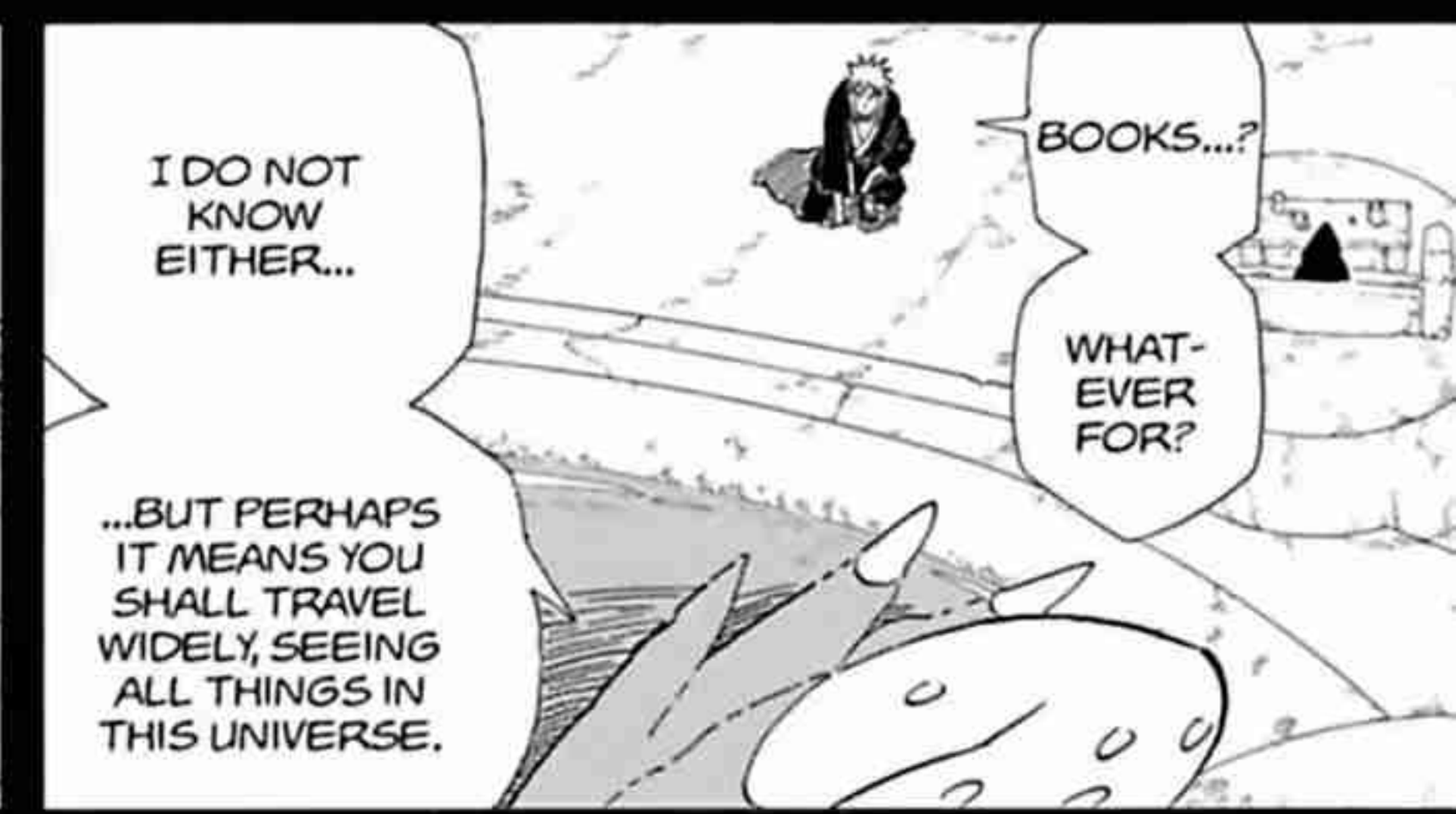
SELEC-TION?

AND EVENTUALLY, THERE SHALL COME A DAY WHEN YOU WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE A CRITICAL SELECTION.
YOU WILL GUIDE THAT REVOLU-TION.

THAT CHOICE YOU MAKE...

...SHALL DECIDE WHICH WAY THE CHANGE GOES.

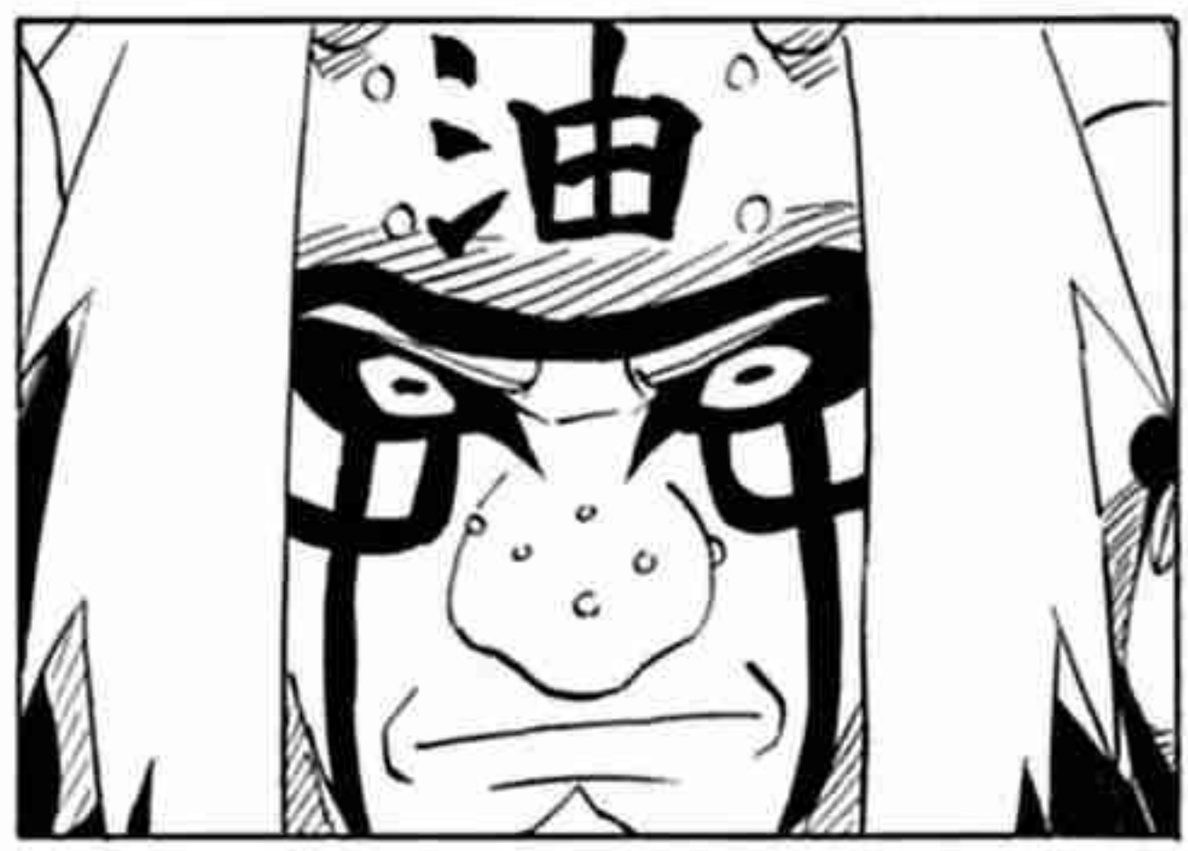




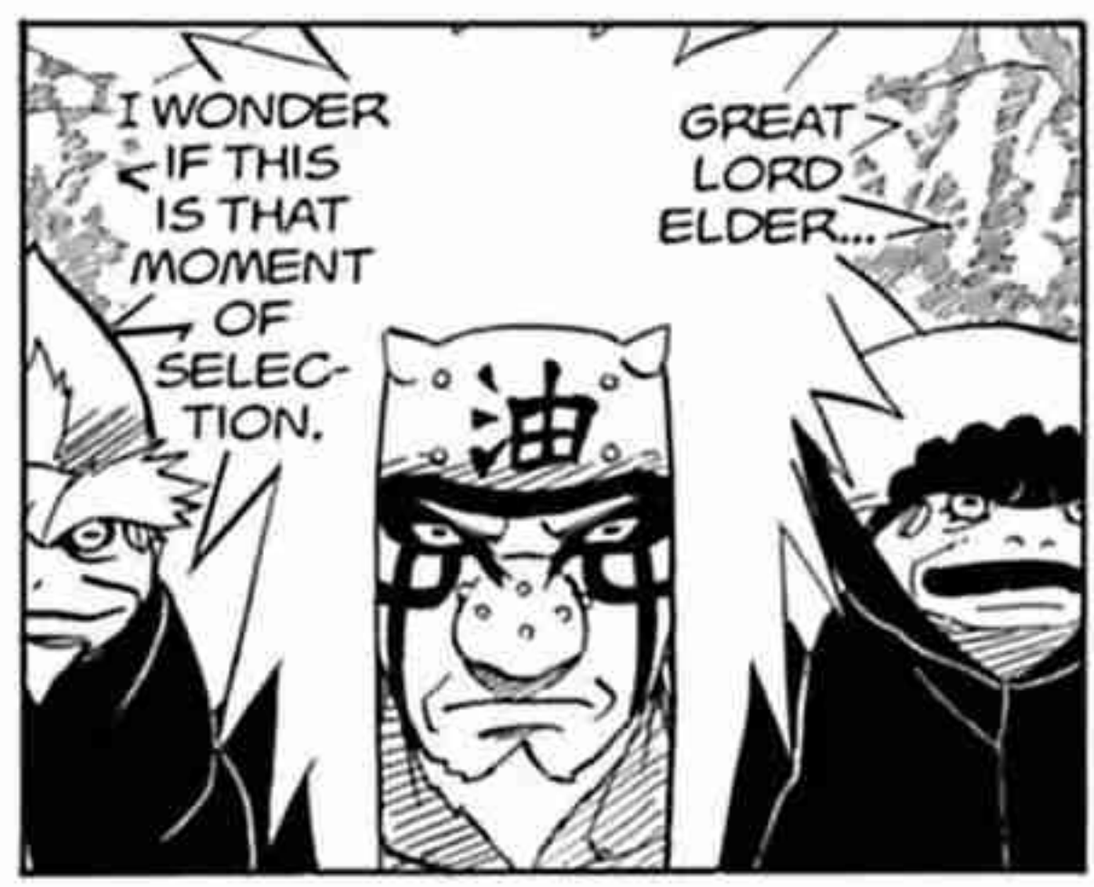
...WHO WOULD BE GRANTED TOAD POWER AND A PROPHECY...

THAT A HUMAN CHILD WOULD ONE DAY WANDER INTO MOUNT MYOBOKU...
NEVER... BESIDES WHICH, I ONCE SAW A PROPHETIC DREAM ABOUT MYSELF...

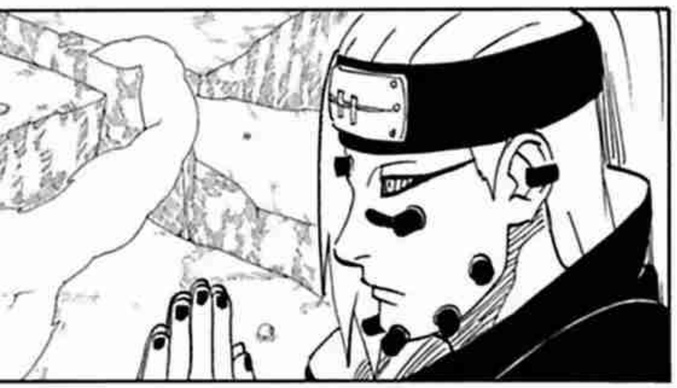
FWP


油

ART OF SUMMON-ING...


I WONDER IF THIS IS THAT MOMENT OF SELEC-TION.
GREAT LORD ELDER...
油

油
!
THIS TIME, HE'S SUMMONED HUMANS.



...SO AS YOUR TEACHER, IT IS MY DUTY TO TAKE YOU DOWN...
YOU BRING DESTRUCTION TO THIS WORLD...
油

OF
BO

NARUTO

Number 377: Honored Sage Mode!!

Number 377: Honored Sage Mode!!

油

IT MUST BE HIS JUTSU... IT'S CERTAINLY WORTH INVESTI-GATING.
THREE...? WHAT IN TARNATION? THERE'RE THREE RINNEGAN BEFORE US...!
GAH, THIS HAS TA HAPPEN DURIN' DINNER PREP TIME...!

SHALL WE START WITH A DISPLAY OF PRE-BATTLE POSTURING, SAGE VERSION?!
TIME TO RUMBLE!

HUSH UP AND FOCUS ON THE OPPONENT, MA!
WHADJA SAY?!!

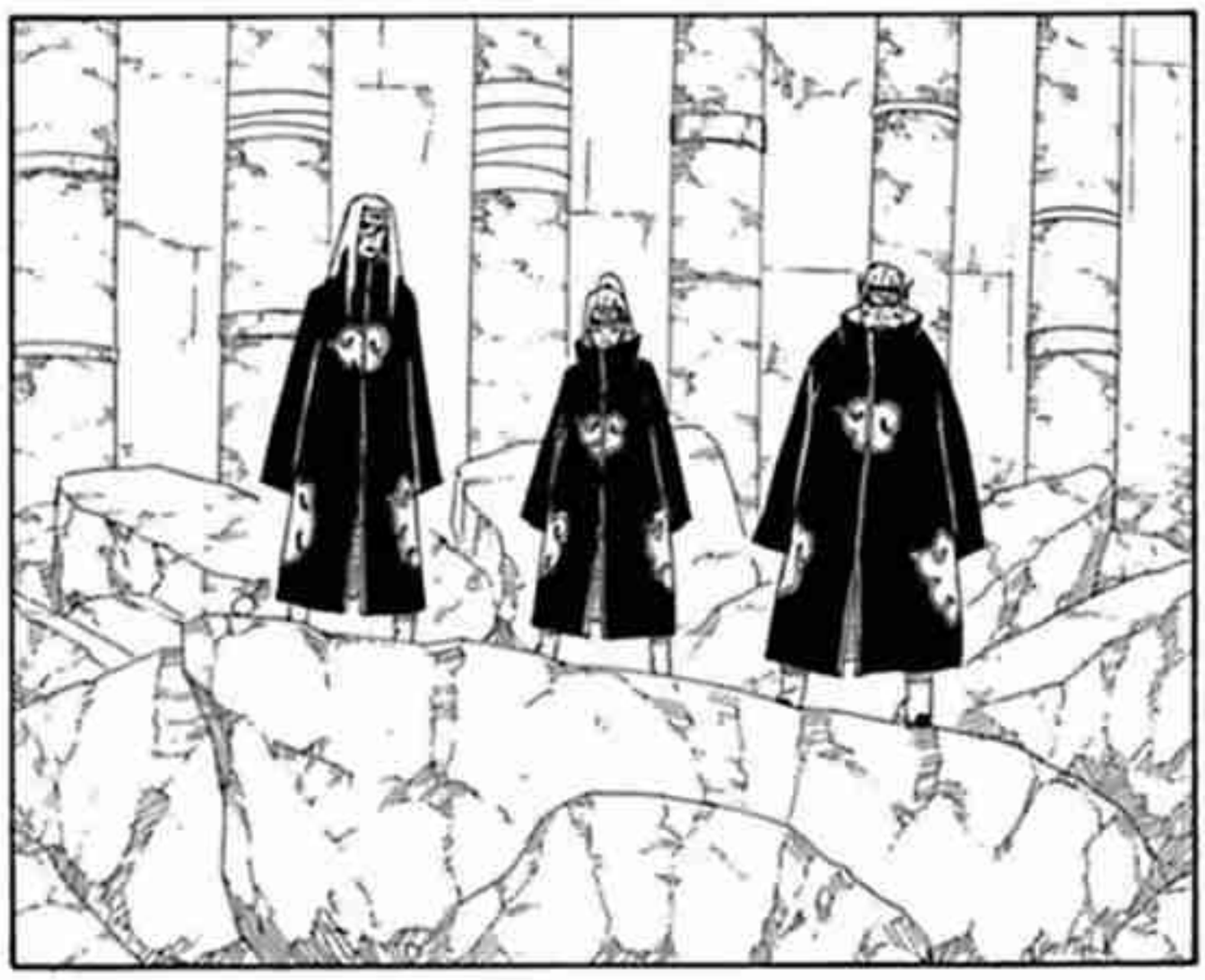
GALLANT JIRAIYA...

LOOK ABOVE, UPON THE HALOS AND HEAVENLY CANO-PIES!!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, LET SAGE JUTSU PREVAIL!!
CLOMP

WILL YA QUIT YER YAKKIN' IN MAH EAR!!

WILL YA QUIT YAKKIN' IN MAH EAR!!

UGH!

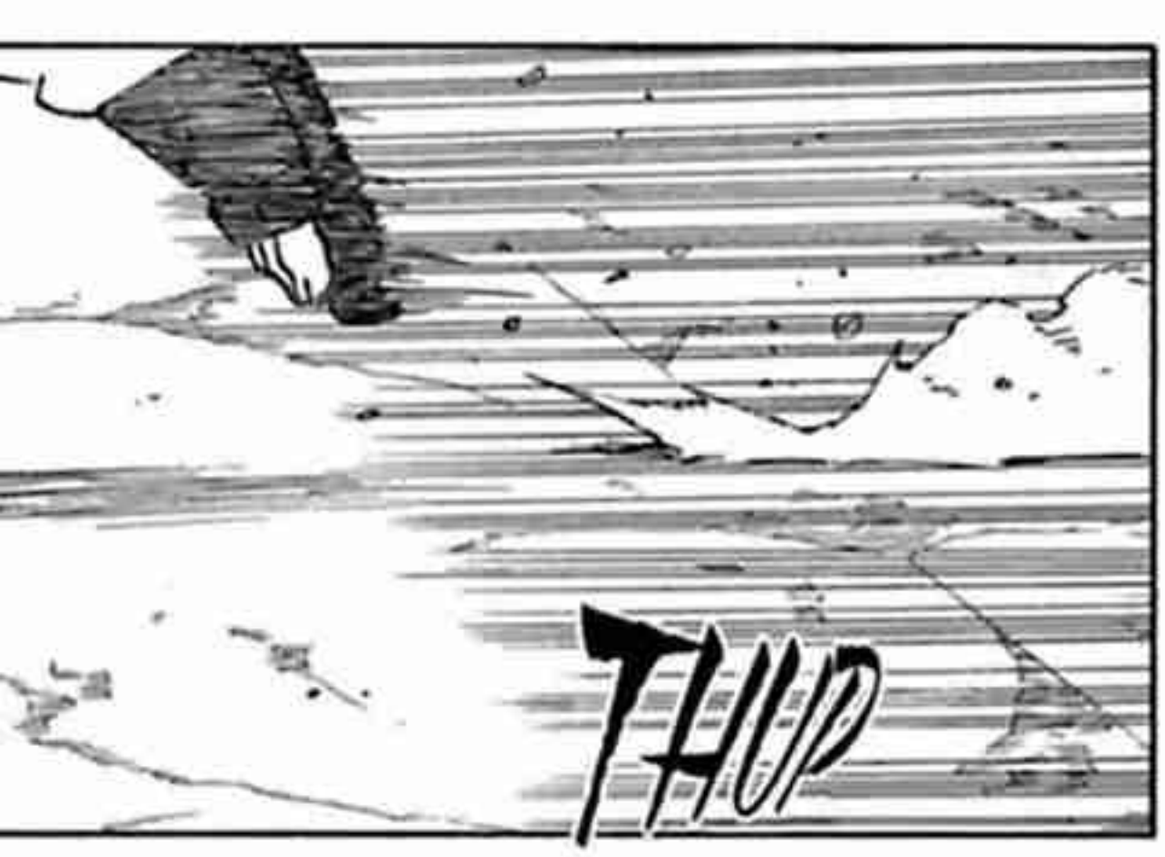


PAY ATTENTION! THIS IS TOP-NOTCH OCULAR JUTSU!
THAT FELLA'S OCULAR JUTSU'S A MUCH BIGGER CONCERN THAN SUPPER!

AH GOTTA WHIP UP SOME SUPPER!
LET'S WRAP THIS UP QUICK! AH NEED TA GIT HOME!

HOW DARE YA USE SUCH A TONE 'GAINST ME!
AH WAS JUST LOOKIN' AFTER YA!!

DON'T YA DARE BELITTLE A WIFE'S DILEMMA OF WHAT TA COOK DAY IN AND DAY OUT!
AH DON'T CARE!!
YA OLD COOT!!


THUP

AARGH... WHO'RE THE ONES YAK-YAKKING INTO WHOSE EARS, EH...?
NAG NAG NAG NAG

NOT BAD...
TSH
BLAM
BLAM

READ THIS WAY
NOW, KIN WE PUT SPOUSAL DIFFER-ENCES ASIDE...
...AND GET THIS HERE OVER WITH?!
CLATTER CLATTER
YES MA'AM!
FWP
HMPH!
BOY, YA PROVIDE DA OIL, AND PA, BRING YER WIND STYLE!
HUMPH... I THINK I'M GONNA STIR UP SOME FRIED PAIN TONIGHT!
!
BULGE

SENPO GOEMON! SAGE ART!! BATH OF BOILING OIL!!!
SHOOSH
THUP

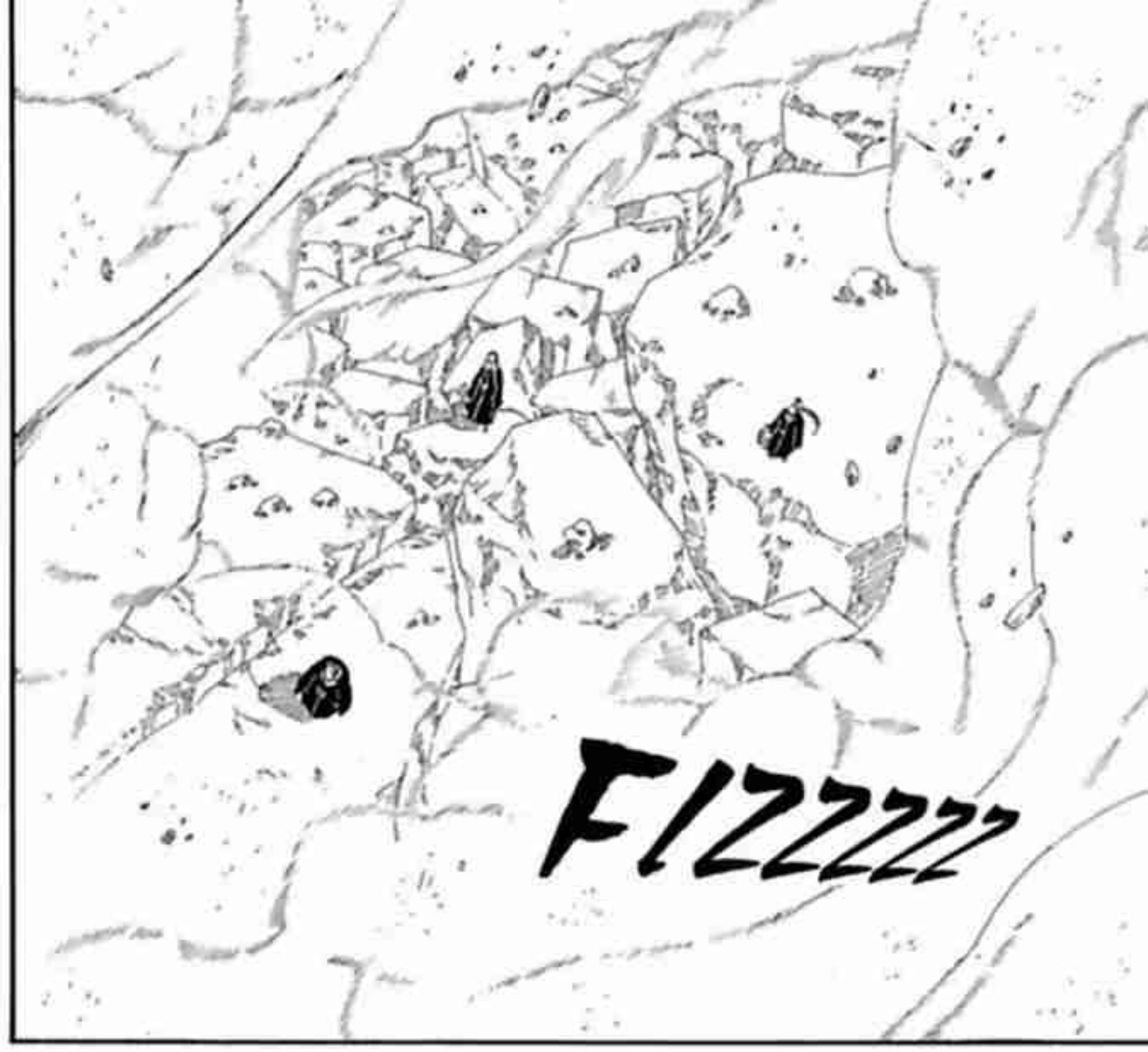
THP

SPLOOSHH

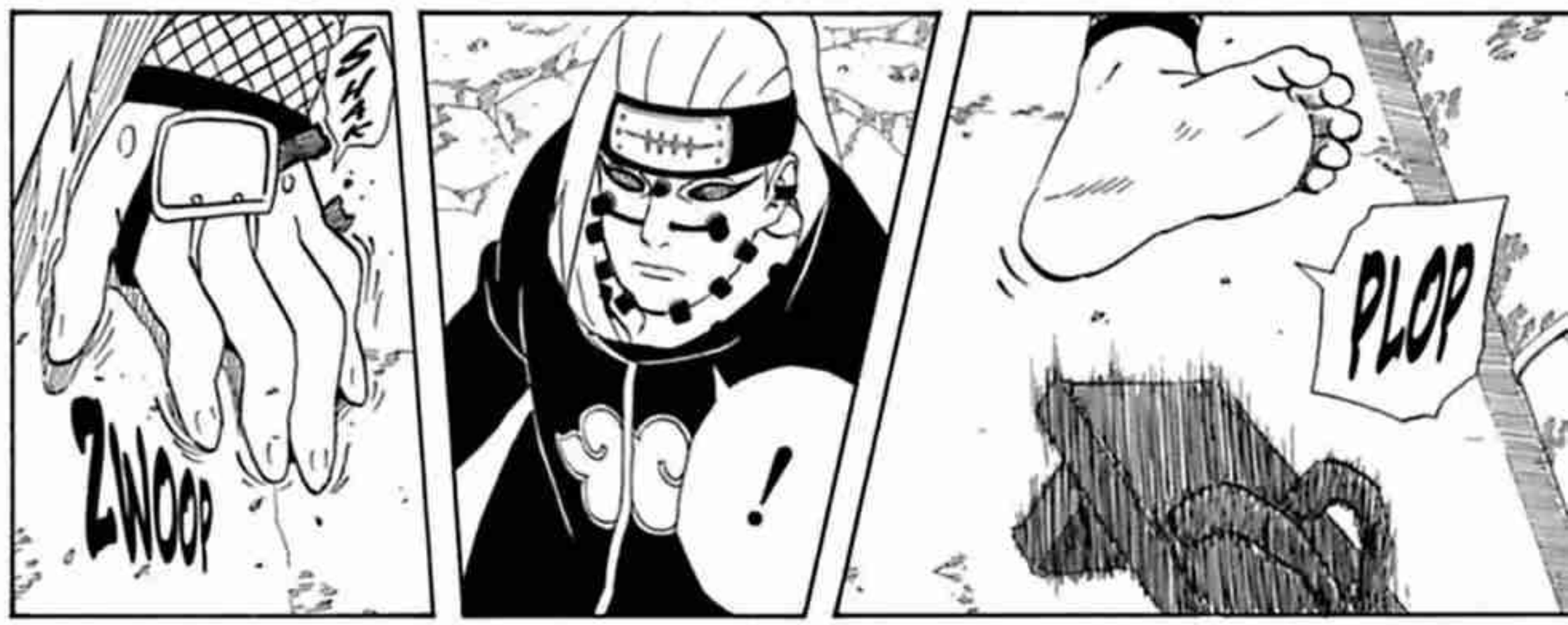
ZIZZZZ...

!

KLAK


FIZZZZZ

THIS HERE IS WORTH INVESTI-GATING AS WELL.
THE OIL VANISHED?
THEY OUGHTA BEEN BASTED BY IT.


SHRK
ZINOOP
!
PLOP

LET'S CHECK IT OUT UP CLOSE.

SKRK

KLONK

MASSIVE RASENGAN !!

!
LOOK OUT BEHIND YA!
HE'S... ABSORBING MY JUTSU?!
KRRENCH
EARLIER, TOO...!

SSH...
WE'VE TAKEN HIS BACK!!

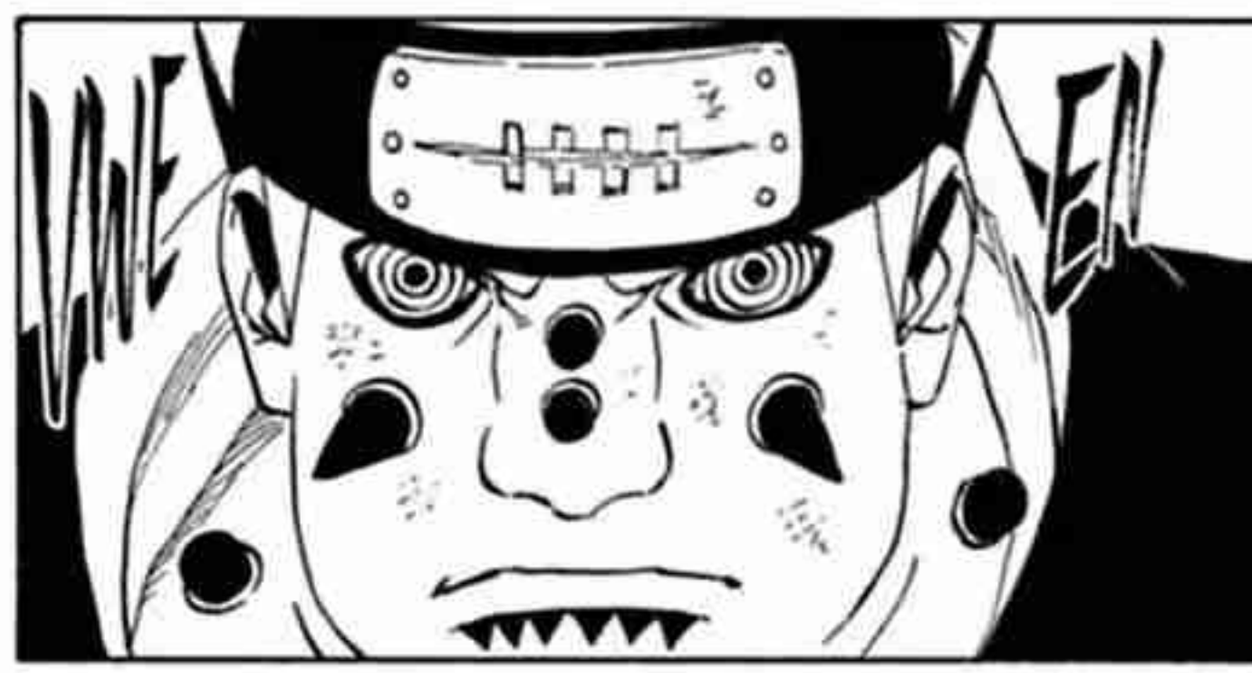
GWOO
SH

TH
HAP

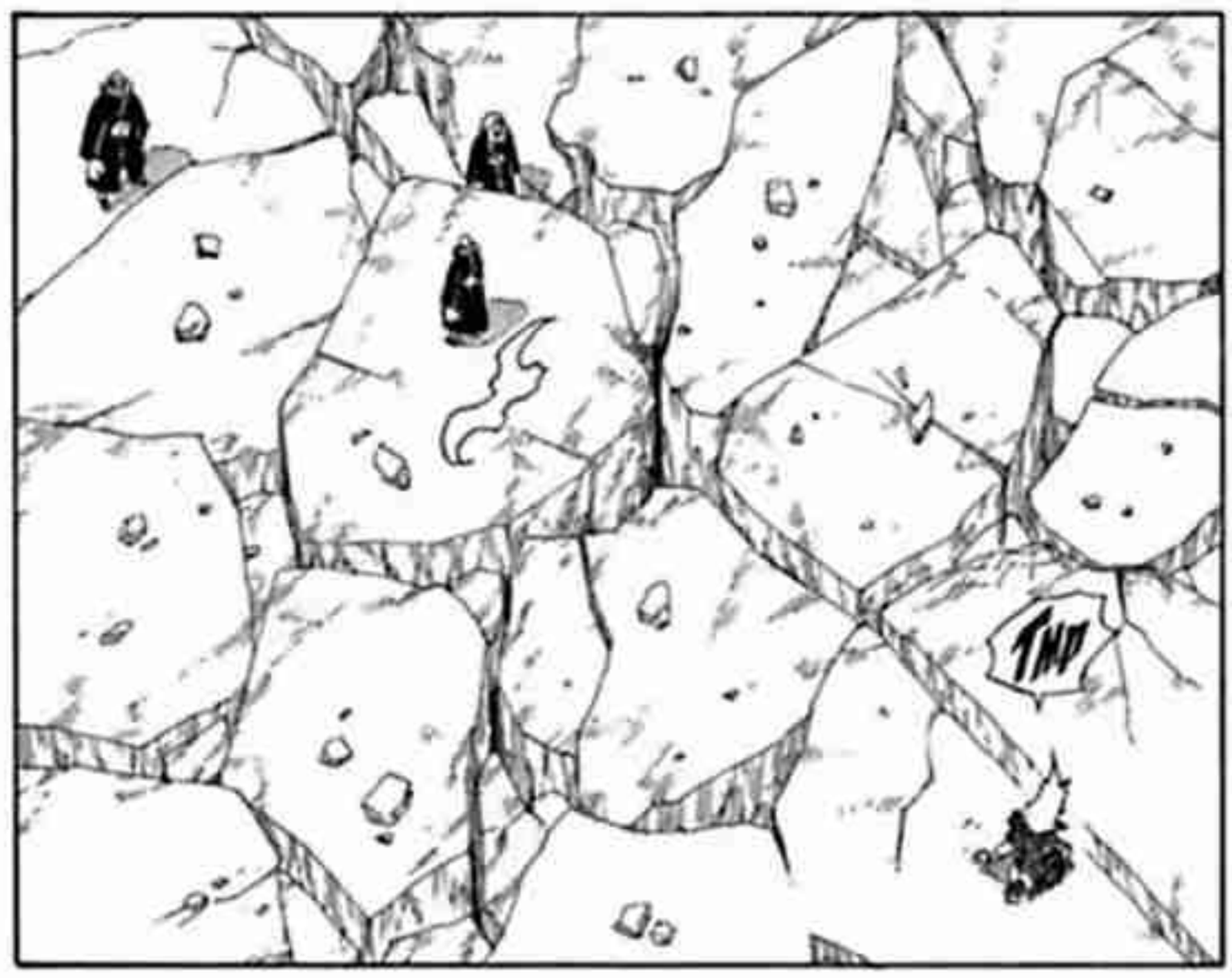
WHA?!
HE BLOCKED MY SAGE MODE ATTACK WITHOUT LOOK-ING...?!

READ THIS WAY
SHWIIN
VWEEN...
SSH
!
BLOP
SAGE ART! KEBARI SENBON!!

BOOF
BOOF
THUP
?!



AND WHEN I TRIED TO ATTACK FROM BEHIND, HE BLOCKED ME WITH A SUMMONING WITHOUT EVER TURNING AROUND...
NOT A SINGLE WASTED MOVEMENT.


THP

AND EVEN IF ALL THREE WERE SENSORY TYPES, THEY STILL HAVE TO SEE AN ATTACK COMING IN ORDER TO COUNTER IT, NO?
WITH NO VERBAL SIGNALS OR EYE CONTACT BETWEEN THEM AT ALL...
THP
THP

...NOT JUST ONCE, BUT TWICE! BUT HOW'D HE DO IT?

KEBARI SENBON IS MY FASTEST JUTSU WITH THE WIDEST ATTACK RANGE.
油

ABSOLUTELY WORTH LOOKIN' INTO, JUST LIKE YA SAID, JIRAIYA-BOY.
THEY'RE NO ORDINARY DOPPEL-GANGERS.
?

HE SIMPLY KNEW ALL THIS SOME-HOW...
THE ONLY WAY TO DEFEND ONESELF AGAINST IT IS WITH A SHIELD, AS HE DID.

...CHOSE YOUR TARGET, AND ATTACKED FROM HIS BLIND SPOT, NO?
JUST NOW, YOU TOOK THEIR BACK...
I REALIZED ONE OF THE OTHERS WAS STARING AT US.

HAVE YOU NOTICED?
NOTICED WHAT?

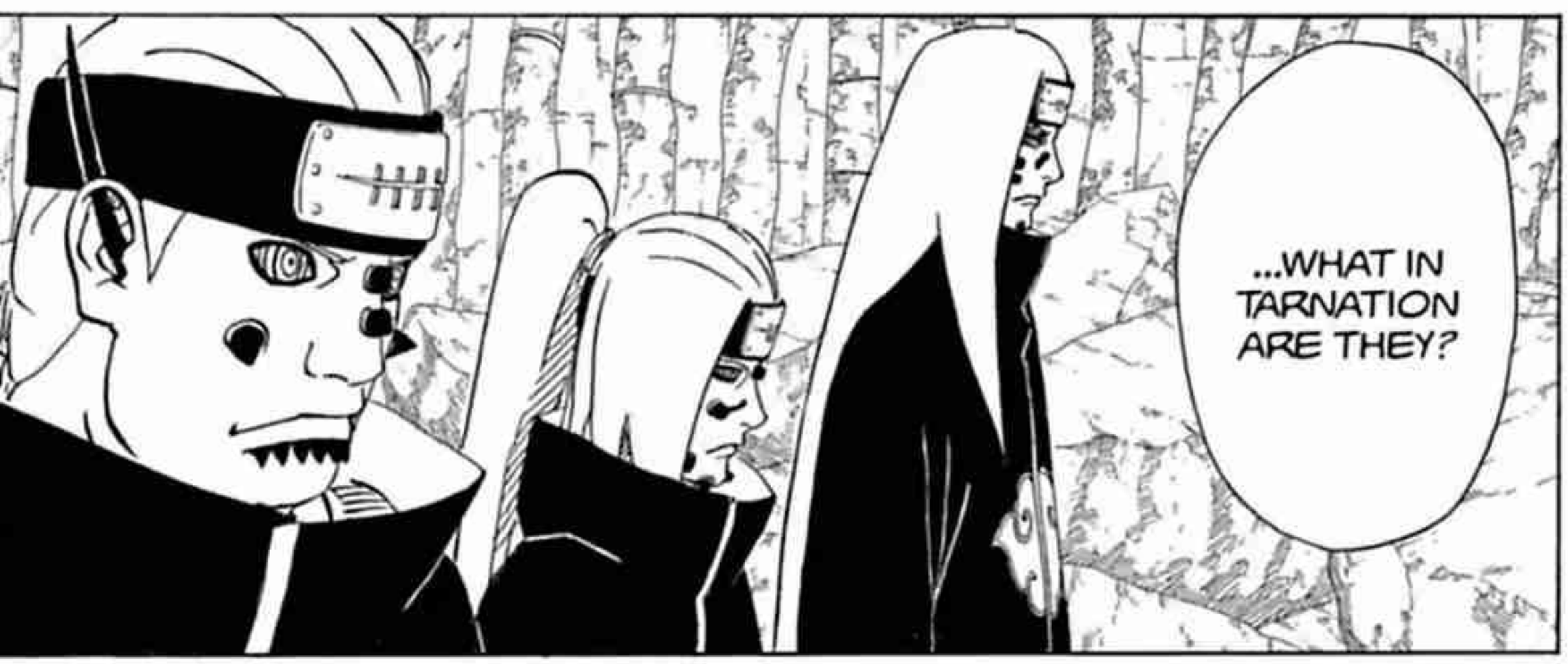
I HAD PICKED UP ON THAT...

BOOF
THUP

BUT THERE'RE NO SIGNS THEY'VE BEEN SIGNALIN' EACH OTHER...
...WHETHER VERBALLY OR WITH EYE CONTACT.

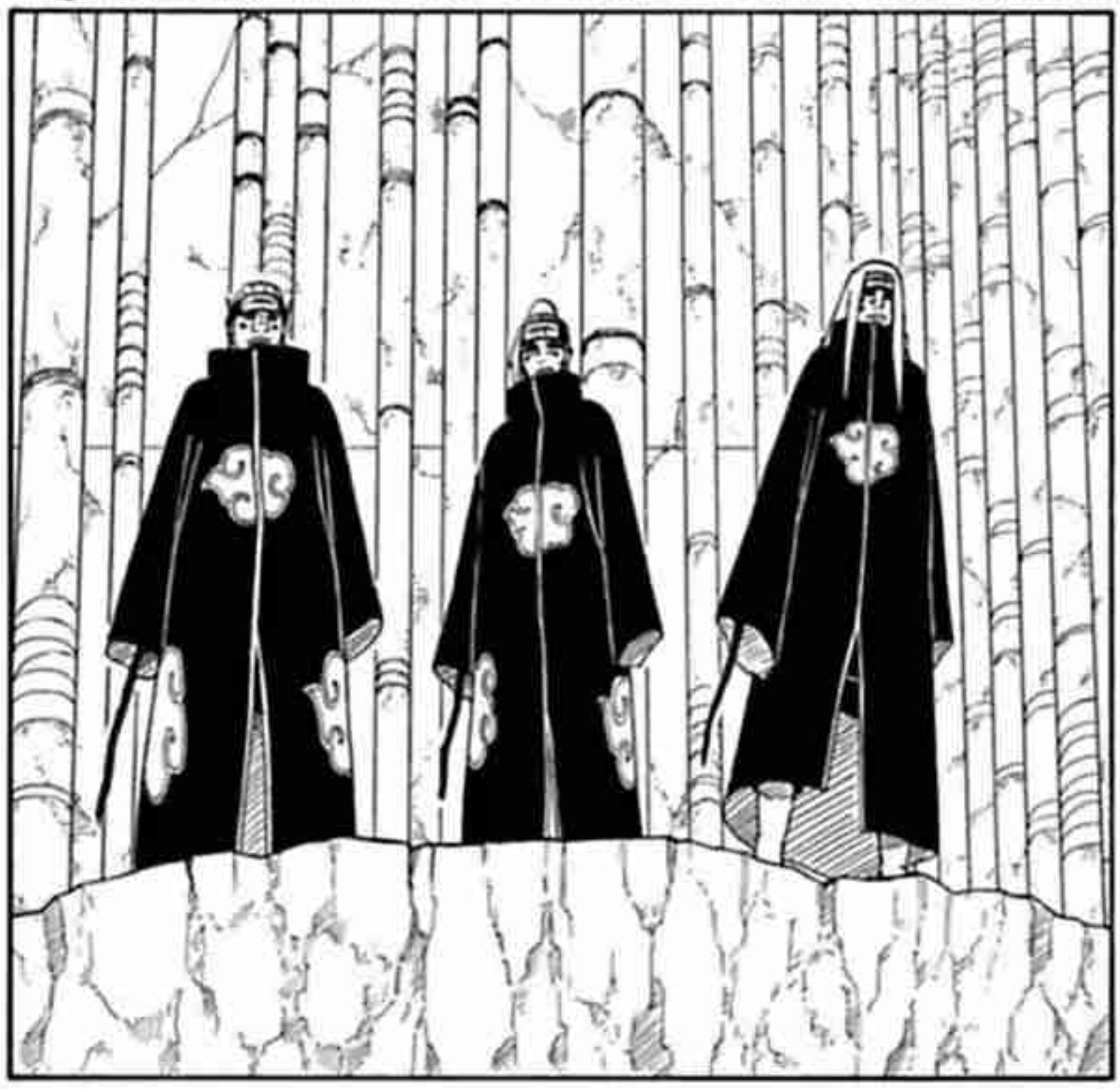
I SEE...
THEIR EYES SHARE IMAGES WIT' ONE ANOTHER ...?
THAT'S WHAT AH SUSPECT.

SUPPOSE THE THREE OF 'EM KIN SHARE WHAT THEY SEE WIT' EACH OTHER...
THAT'S IT! IT'S THEM THERE EYES... ALL THREE HAVE THE SAME EYES!
!


...WHAT IN TARNATION ARE THEY?

NARUTO

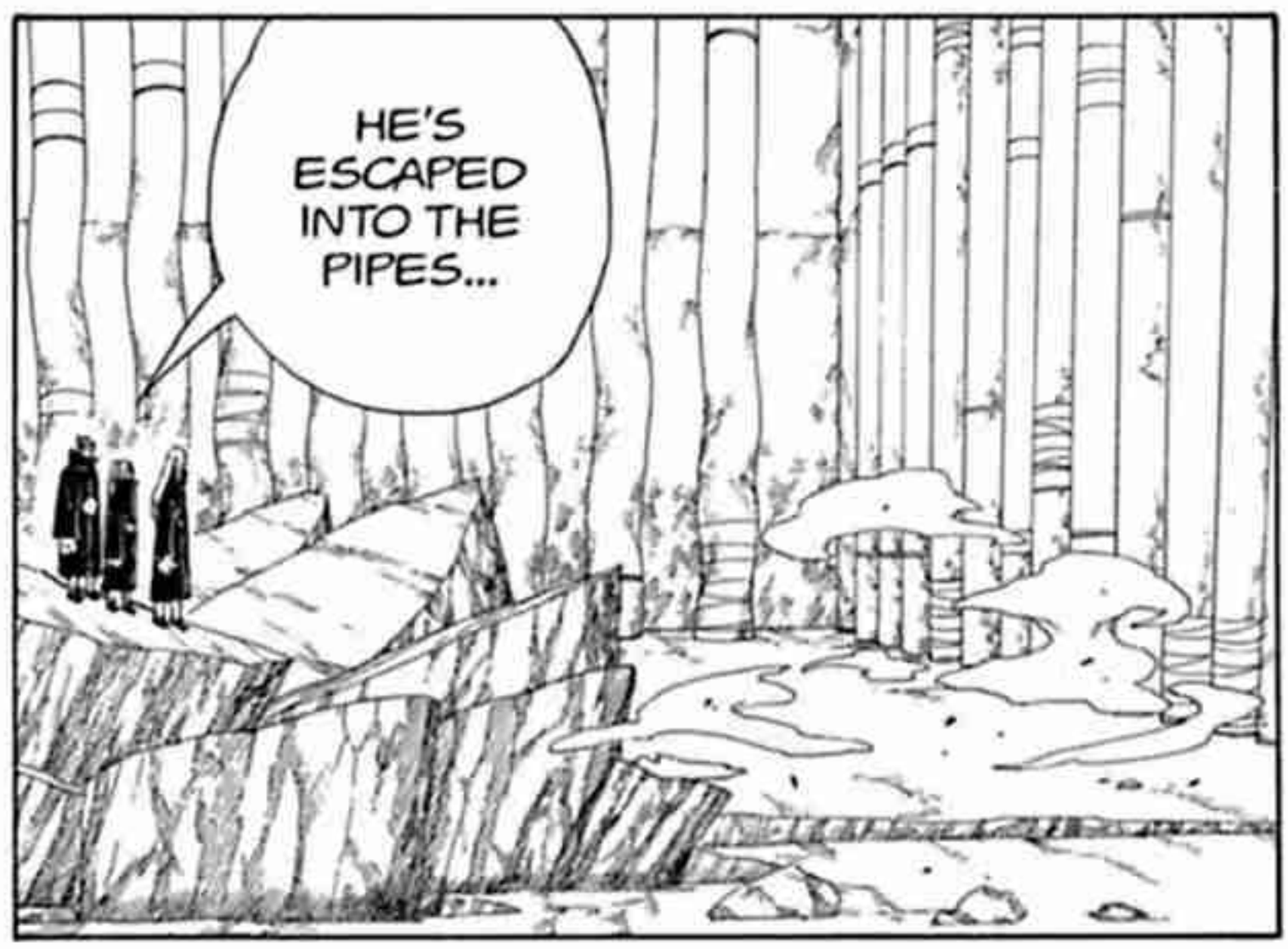
Number 378: One to One...!!

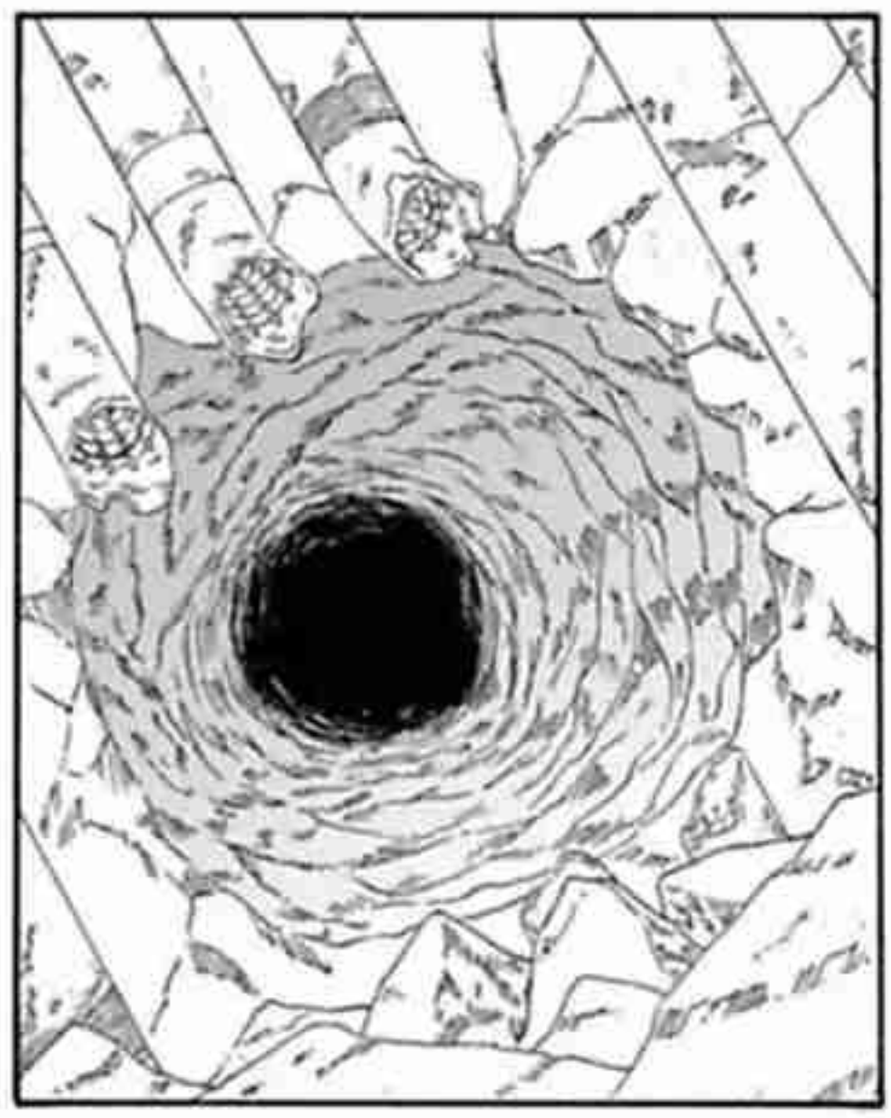


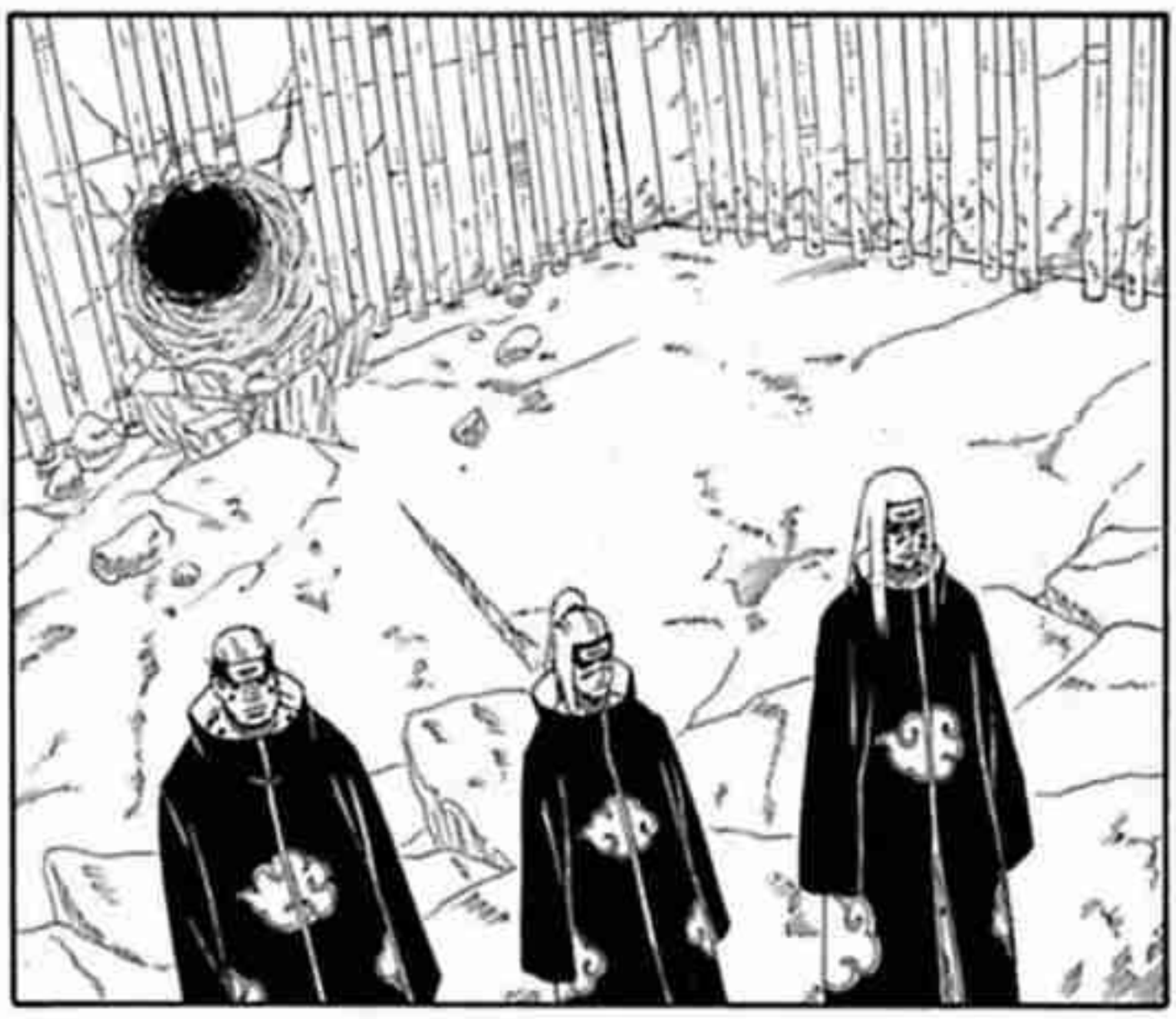
Number 378: One To One...!!

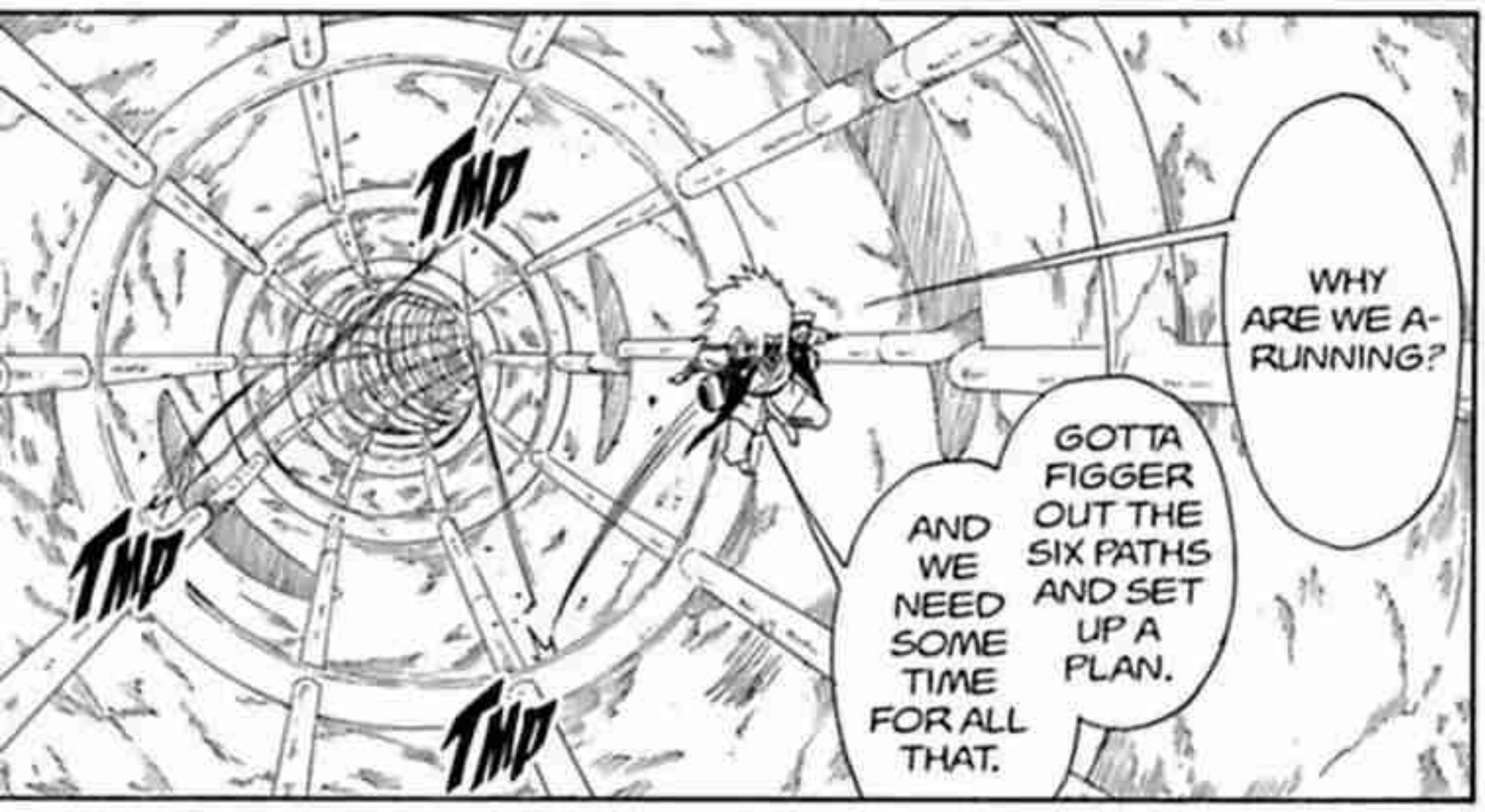
WE NEED TA SKEDADDLE, JIRAIYA-BOY.

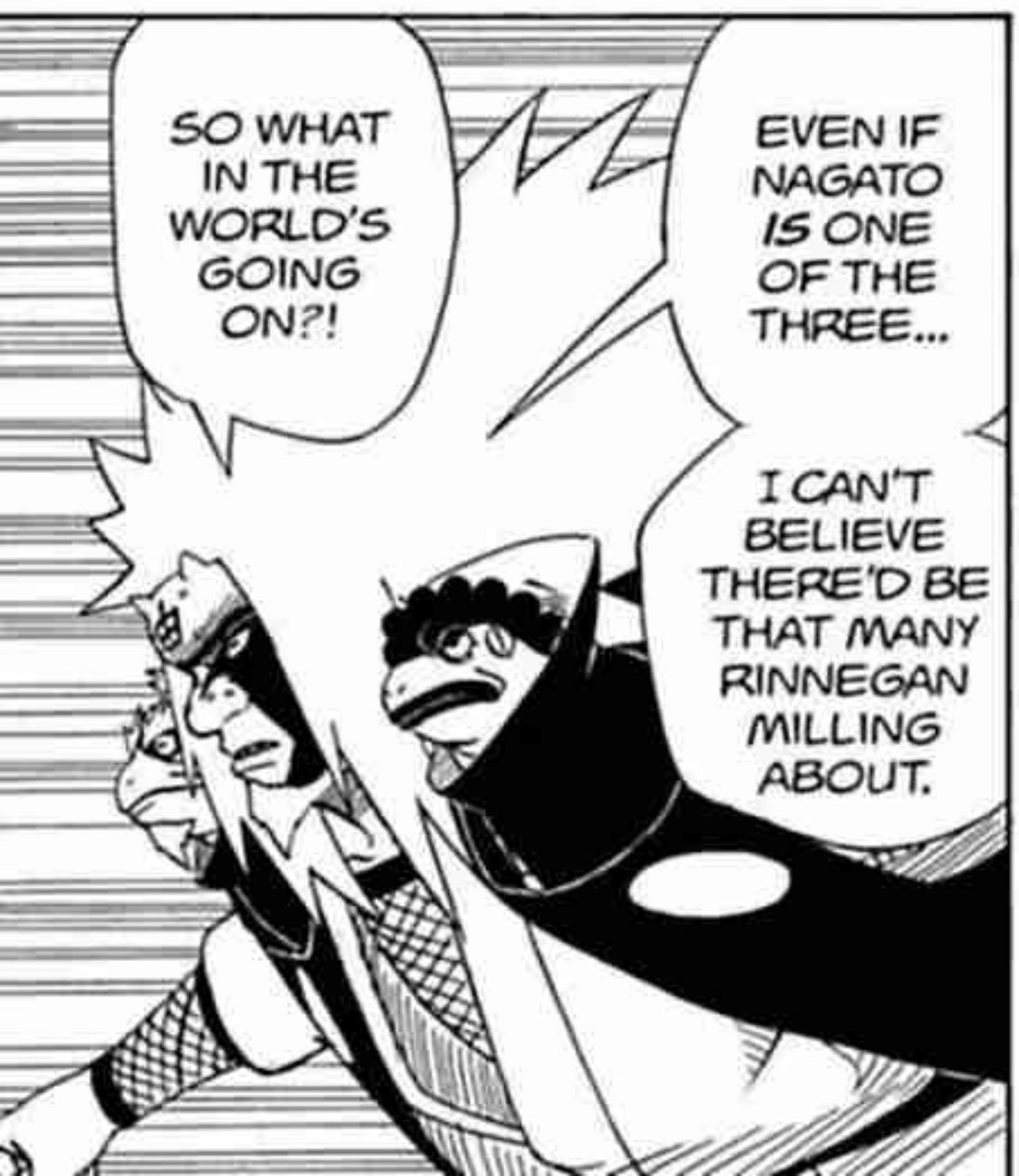
...YESSIR.



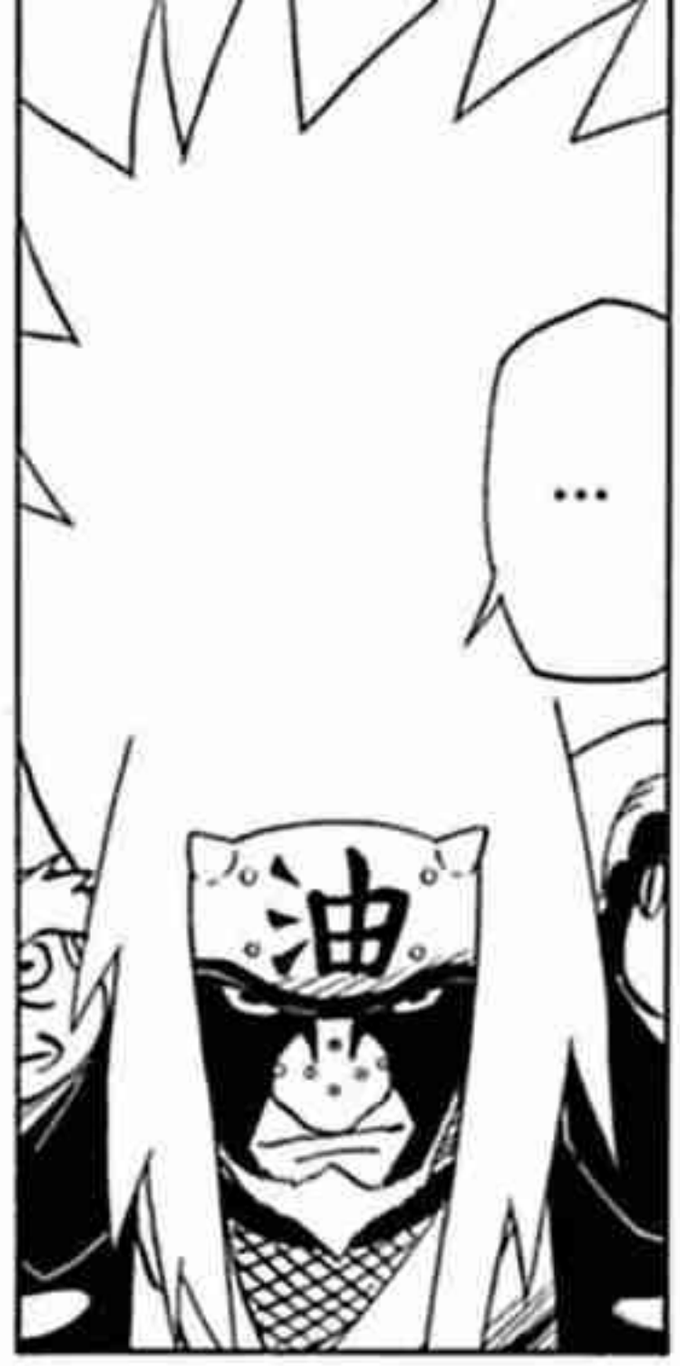





TMP
TMP
TMP
WHY ARE WE A-RUNNING?
GOTTA FIGGER OUT THE SIX PATHS AND SET UP A PLAN.
AND WE NEED SOME TIME FOR ALL THAT.


SO WHAT IN THE WORLD'S GOING ON?!
EVEN IF NAGATO IS ONE OF THE THREE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'D BE THAT MANY RINNEGAN MILLING ABOUT.

IN SHORT, THEY ALL HAVE THE SIX PATHS RINNEGAN...
THEY MAY LOOK DIFFERENT, BUT THEY'VE ALL GOT THE SAME PUPILS...

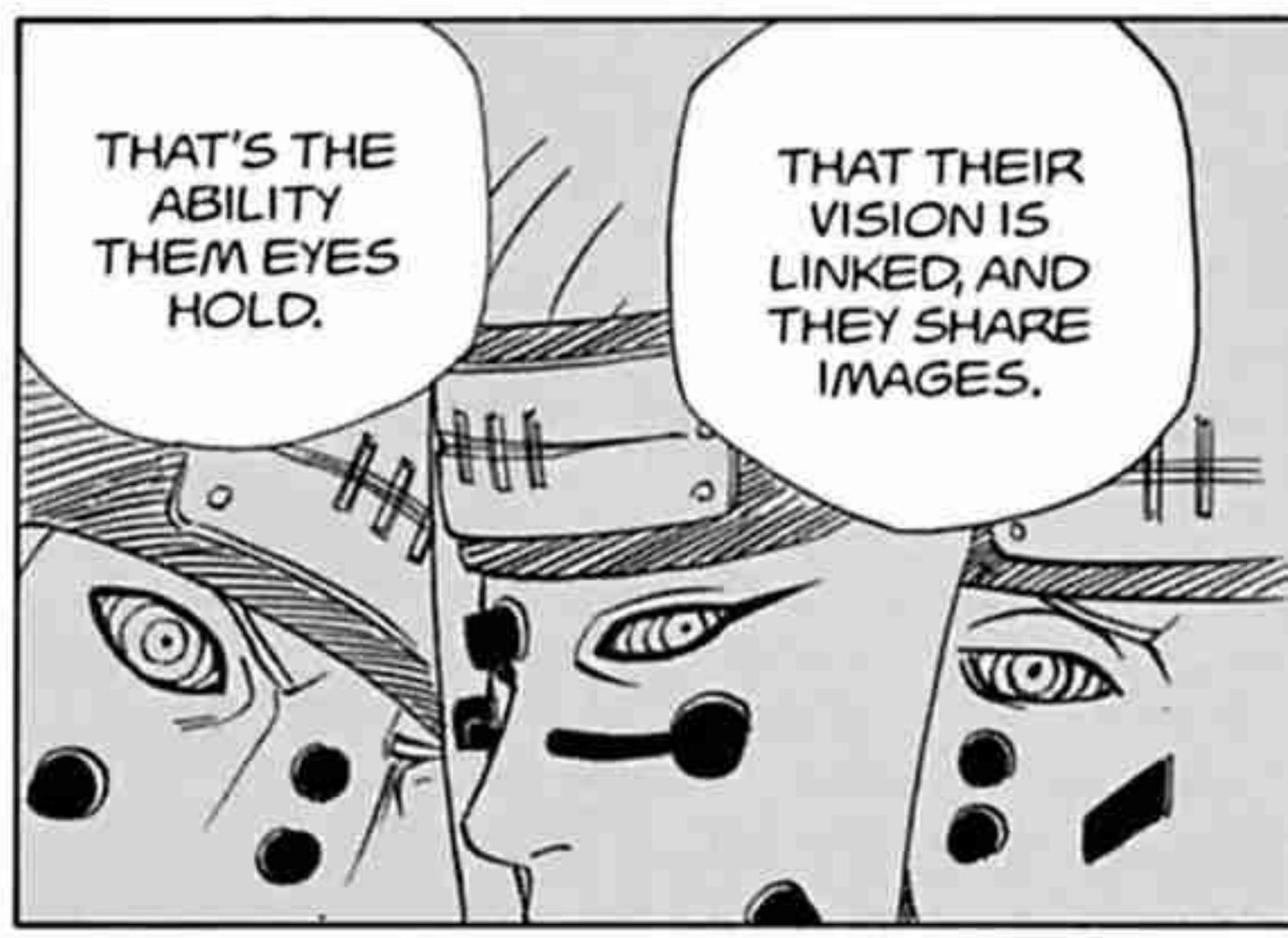

...

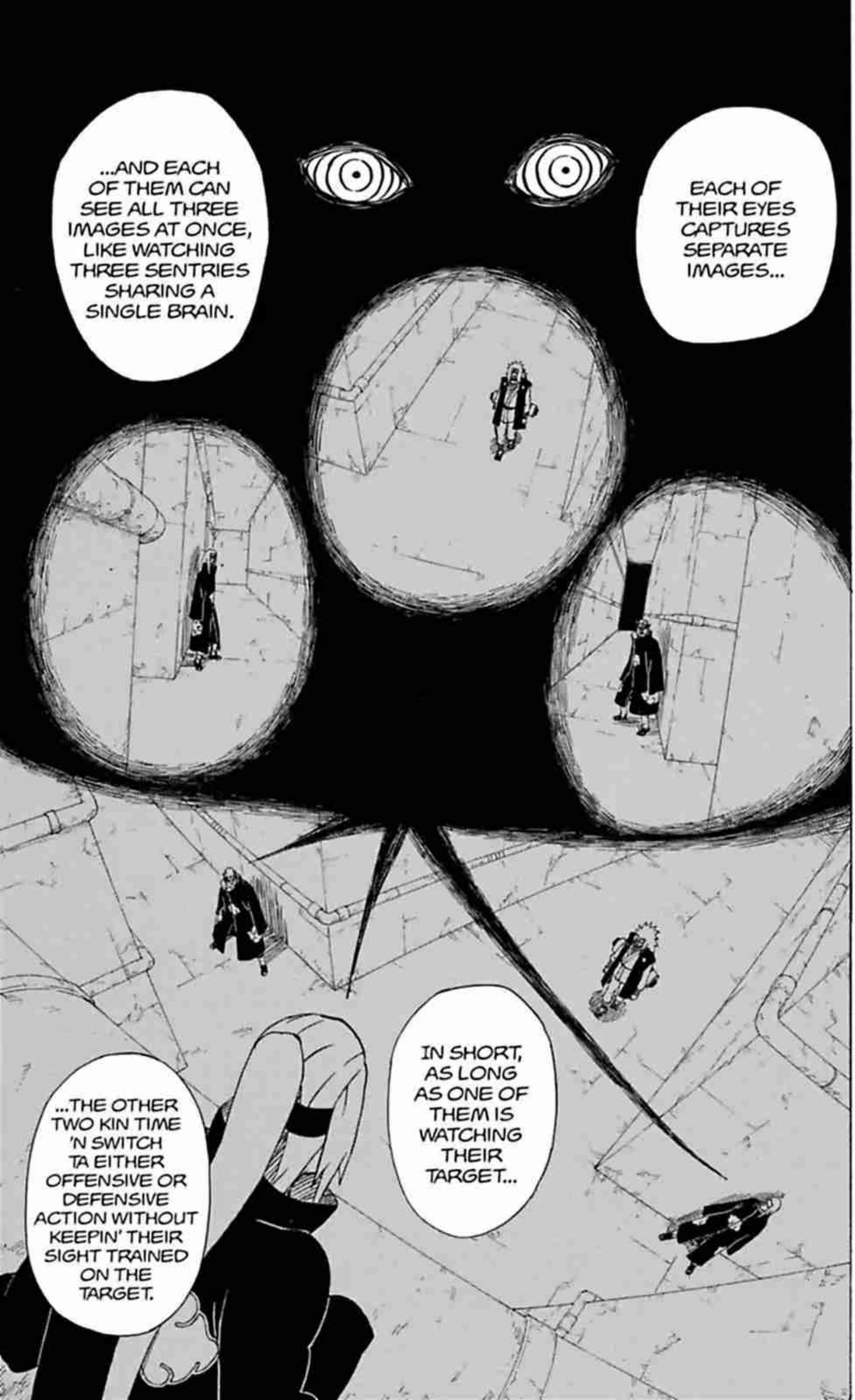
SHOOM
AH DON'T THINK IT MATTERS SO MUCH WHICH IS THE REAL CRITTER.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THERE EXIST THREE RINNEGAN HOLDERS.
WHICH ONE IS PAIN...?

IT'S STILL NOT CLEAR...
...BUT THERE'S JUST A WEE BIT WE KIN FIGGER OUT.

SO... WHO AND WHAT *IS* PAIN?

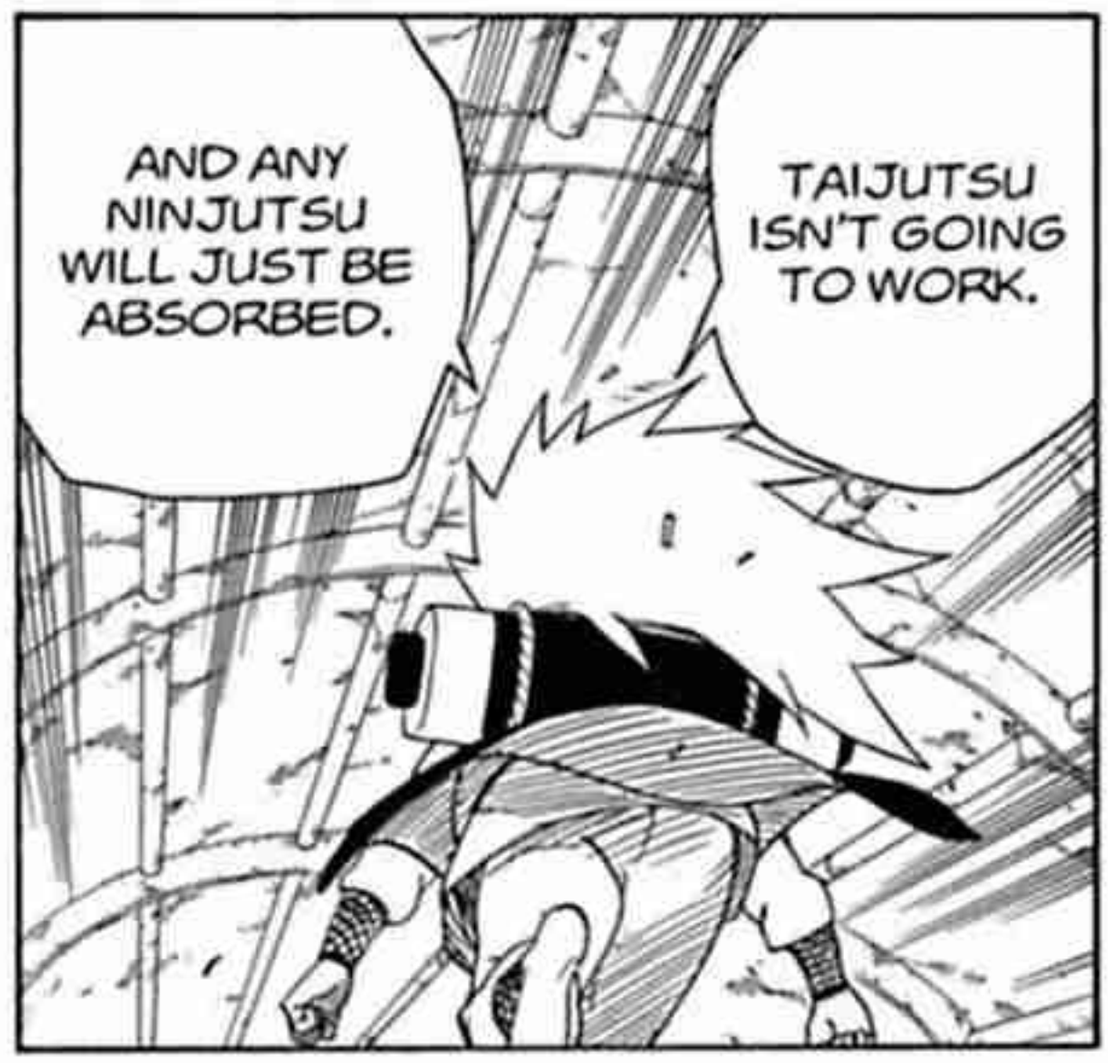
TA PUT IT REAL SIMPLE...
WHICH MEANS WHAT, THEN?
WHAT'S THE ADVAN-TAGE OF THAT?


THAT'S THE ABILITY THEM EYES HOLD.
THAT THEIR VISION IS LINKED, AND THEY SHARE IMAGES.


...AND EACH OF THEM CAN SEE ALL THREE IMAGES AT ONCE, LIKE WATCHING THREE SENTRIES SHARING A SINGLE BRAIN.
EACH OF THEIR EYES CAPTURES SEPARATE IMAGES...
IN SHORT, AS LONG AS ONE OF THEM IS WATCHING THEIR TARGET...
...THE OTHER TWO KIN TIME 'N SWITCH TA EITHER OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE ACTION WITHOUT KEEPIN' THEIR SIGHT TRAINED ON THE TARGET.

I'M POSITIVE I CAN WIN ONE ON ONE...
WHICH MEANS WE HAVE TO SPLIT THEM UP AND FIGHT EACH SEPARATELY.

AND UNLIKE THE BYAKUGAN, THEY KIN ALWAYS GUARD EACH OTHER'S BLIND SPOTS WITHOUT WEAVIN' SIGNS OR MANIPULATIN' CHAKRA.
SO THEY GOT TRIPLE THE SIGHT OF OTHERS.
IT'S AN INVINCIBLE COMBINATION.


AND ANY NINJUTSU WILL JUST BE ABSORBED.
TAIJUTSU ISN'T GOING TO WORK.

... I'M SURE THEY TRAIN AS A THREESOME, TAKING CARE NEVER TO SPLIT UP...
...BUT AGAINST THE LIKES OF THEM...

THEN AGAIN, I SEEM TO RECALL...
...BUT I AM A DUD WHEN IT COMES TO GENJUTSU...

IF NEITHER TAIJUTSU NOR NINJUTSU IS GONNA FLY...
...THE ONLY THING LEFT HERE IS SOME OF THAT THERE GENJUTSU.

NO WAY!

NOT GONNA DO IT!!

IF THEY'RE FORMER DISCIPLES OF YOURS, JIRAIYA-BOY, THEY KNOW THAT YOU DON'T USE GEN-JUTSU...

SO THAT MIGHT GIVE US AN OPENING.

D-DO WHAT, MA'AM...?!

SIGH...

WORLD PEACE IS HINGIN' ON THIS BATTLE, MA!

DON'T BE SELFISH!

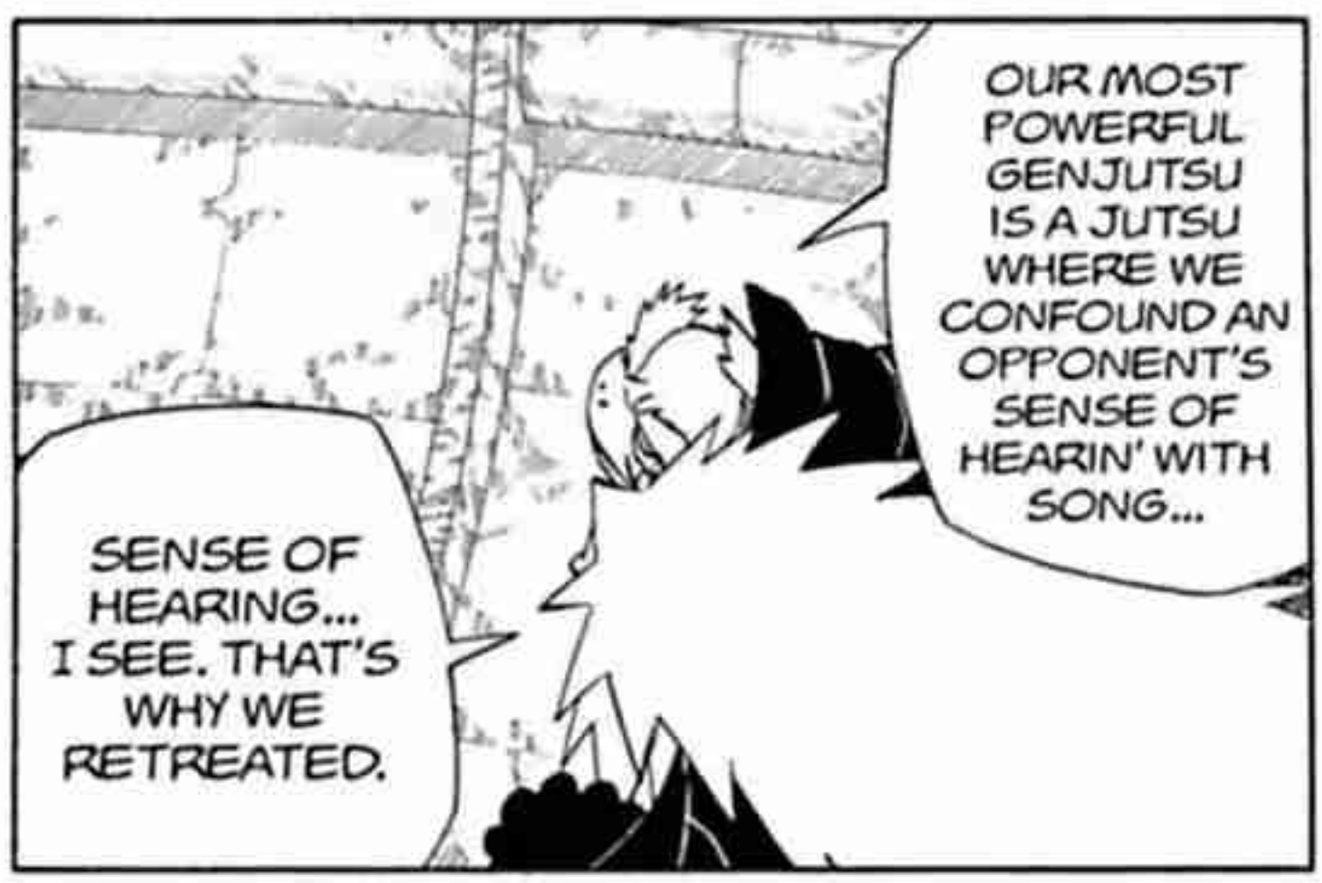
WH-WHAT IS IT THAT YOU OBJECT TO SO MUCH?

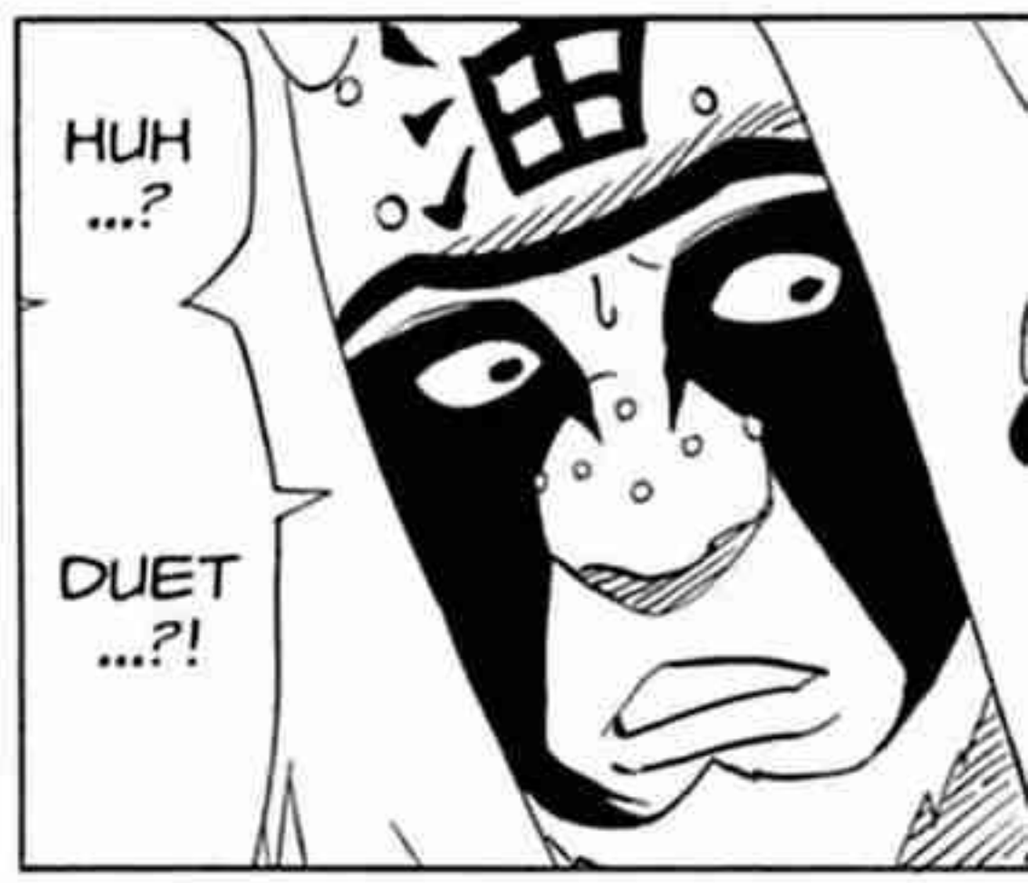
THE GREAT LORD ELDER TOLD US TO GIT ALONG, REMEM-BER?!!

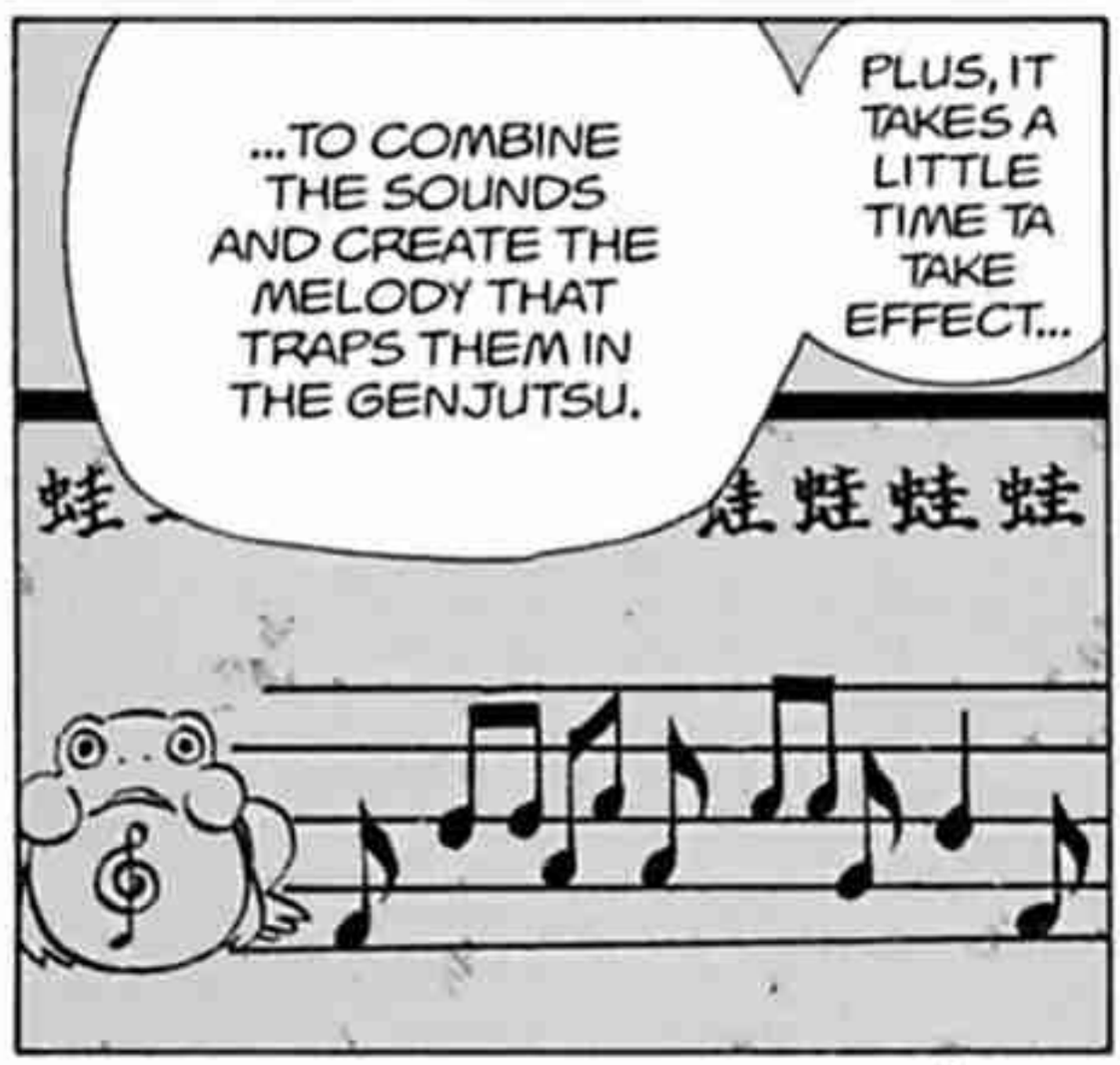
AH DON'T CARE 'BOUT NO OLD GEEZER'S SENILE PROPHE-CIES!

AH CAN'T SING NO DUET WITH PA AT THIS PLUMP RIPE OLD AGE!

IT'S EMBAR-RASSIN'!!







BUT ONCE THEY GIT UNDER OUR SPELL...

...IT'S OUR VICTORY FER SURE.

IF THEY FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE BEFORE WE SNARE 'EM, AND THEY COME A-RUNNING...

...WE WILL LOSE FER SURE.

SHOOM

THE FATE OF THE SHINOBI WORLD DEPENDS ON THIS HERE BATTLE!

NO!

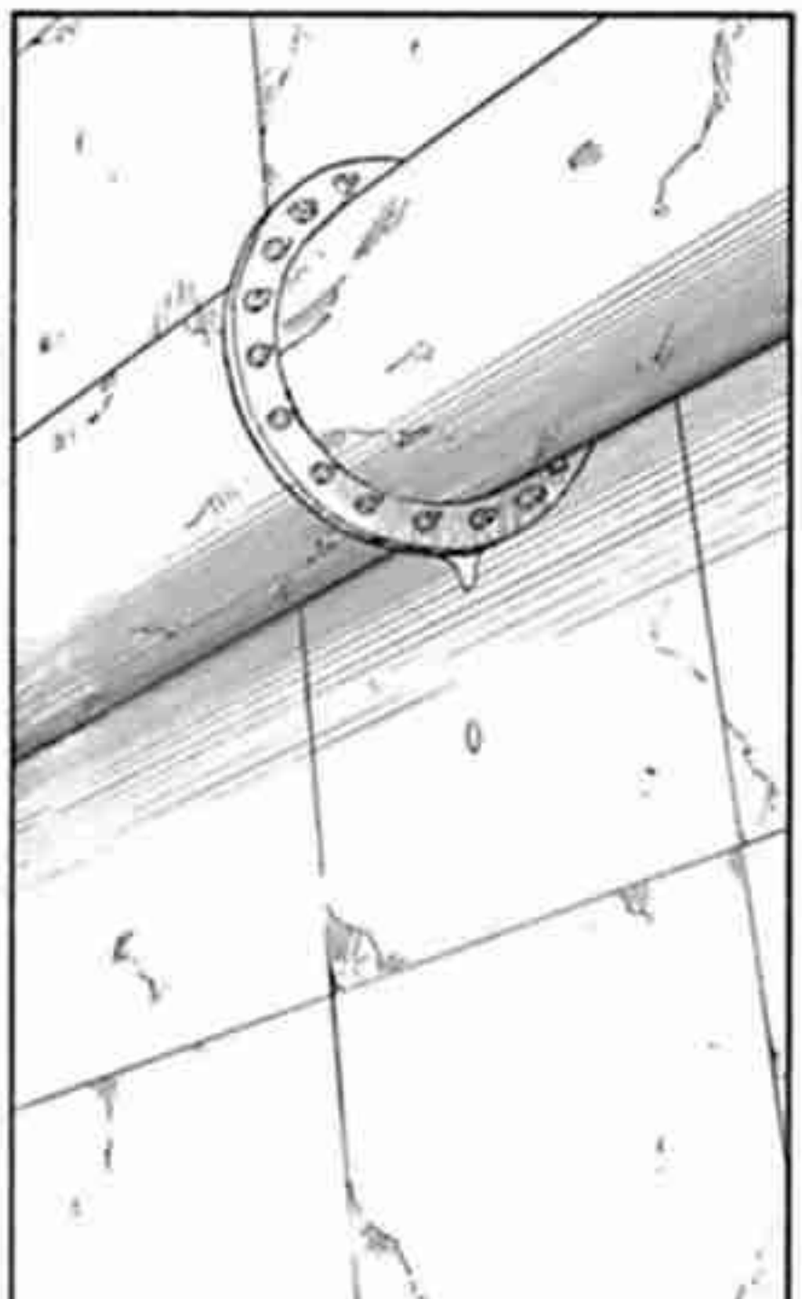
...I WANT YOU TO FREE YOURSELVES FROM MY SHOULDERS IMMEDIATELY.

IF YOU TWO'S LIVES ARE EVER IN DANGER...

!

!

...

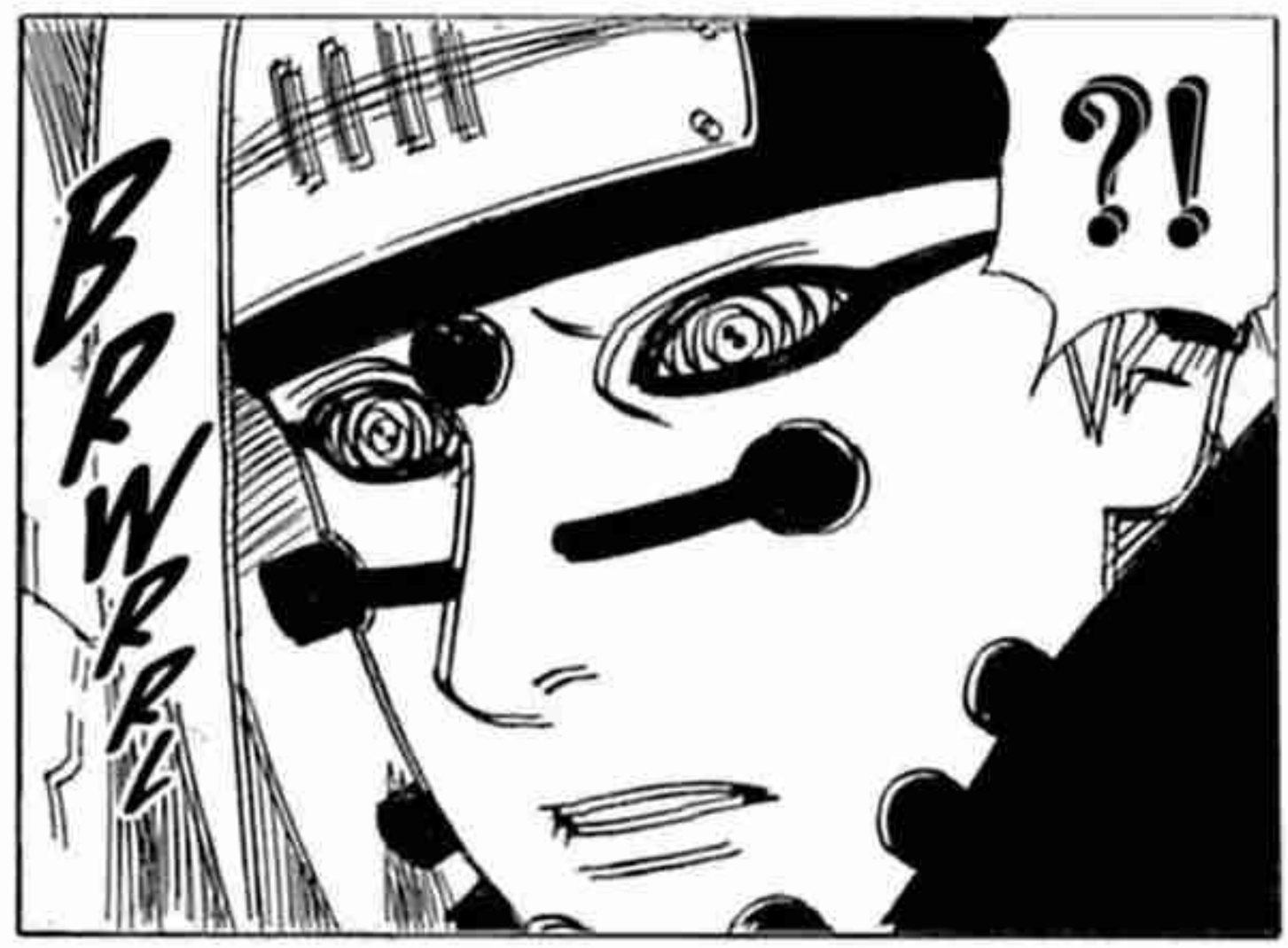


DO TELL...

ALTHOUGH IT IS A GAMBLE AS WELL.

...I HAVE A PROPOSAL.

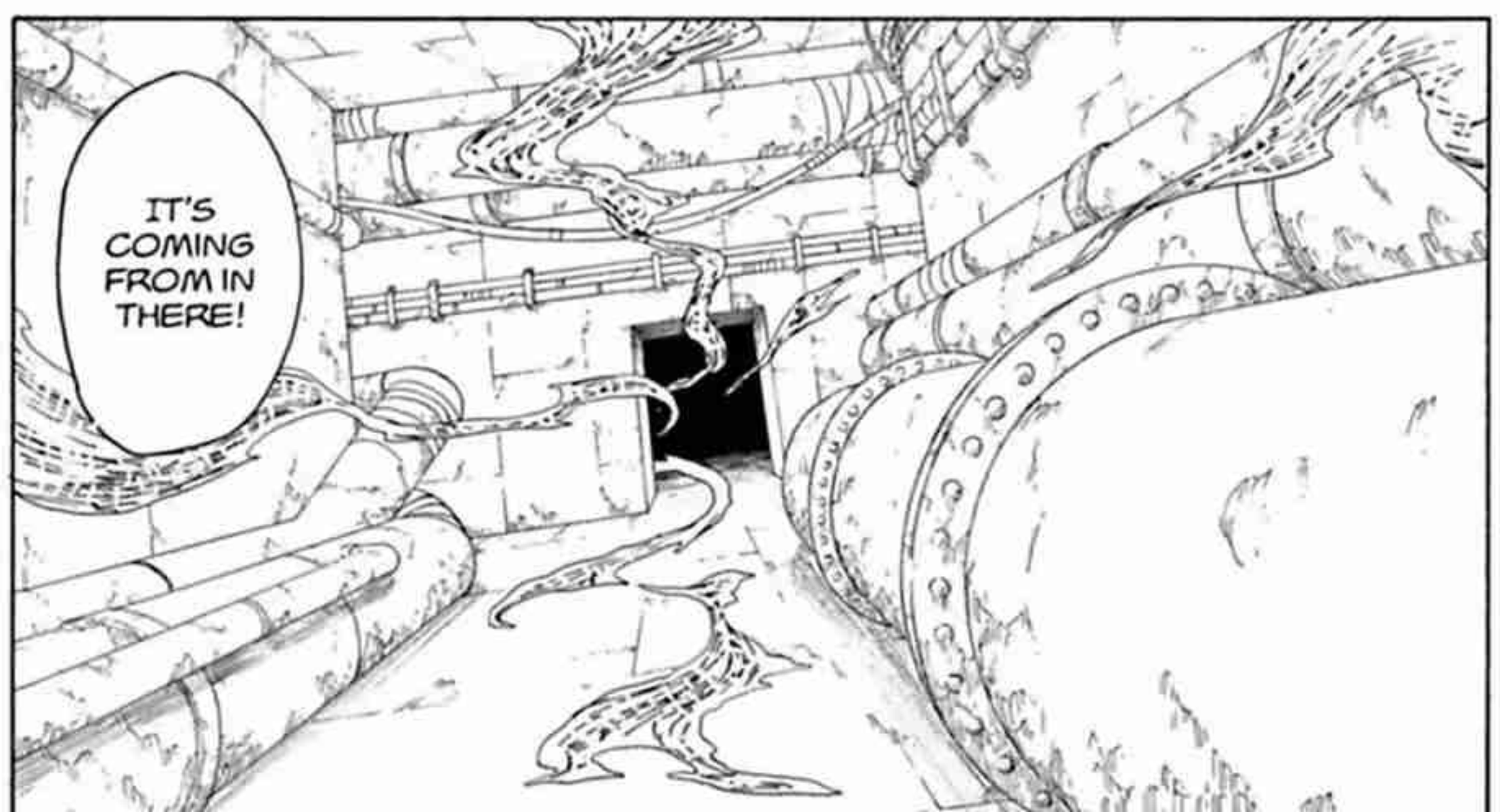
RIBBIT RIBBIT


BRWRL
?!

SSH...
THIS... IS THE SINGING VOICE OF THE FROGS...

FSH

IS THIS... A GEN-JUTSU?!


IT'S COMING FROM IN THERE!

SHUUU

SHOO

READ THIS WAY
油
BUUUU
POP
A SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!
FWA
FIRE STYLE! GIANT FLAME BOMBS!!
AM
THUP
HERE IT COMES.
FZWAAM

THE FIRST FELLOW'S ALL ABOUT SUMMONING...

THAT BIG FELLOW'S JUMPED IN TO ABSORB THE JUTSU!
GOOD! MY GAMBLE'S A SUCCESS!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED, EACH OF THEM POSSESSES ONLY A SINGLE TYPE OF JUTSU!

AND BOTH TIMES, IT WAS THE BIG FELLOW WHO ABSORBED MY JUTSU...

...SO ONLY ONE OF THEM...

...ONE OF THE OTHERS I BLINDED...

RIGHT NOW, THE BIG FELLOW'S EYES ARE FOCUSED ON THE JUTSU...

SPEED
...IS LOOKING AT ME!!
RGH
EZWA
THUP
THUP
THIS ONE TOO!

!
THP
GOTCHA!
THE DARK SWAMP!
SWOOEEEEEE...
THP
UGH...!

SHUN

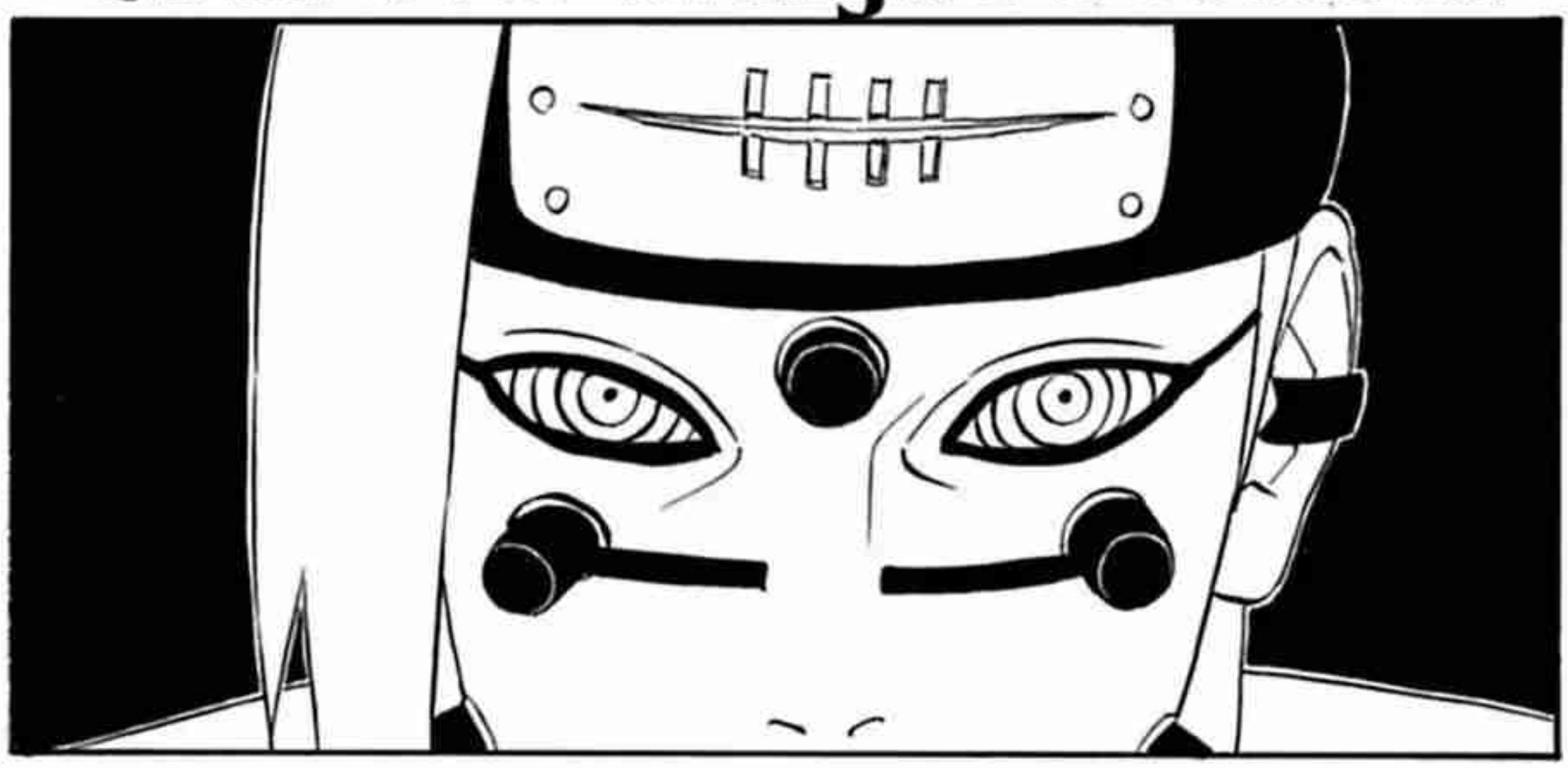
REEE

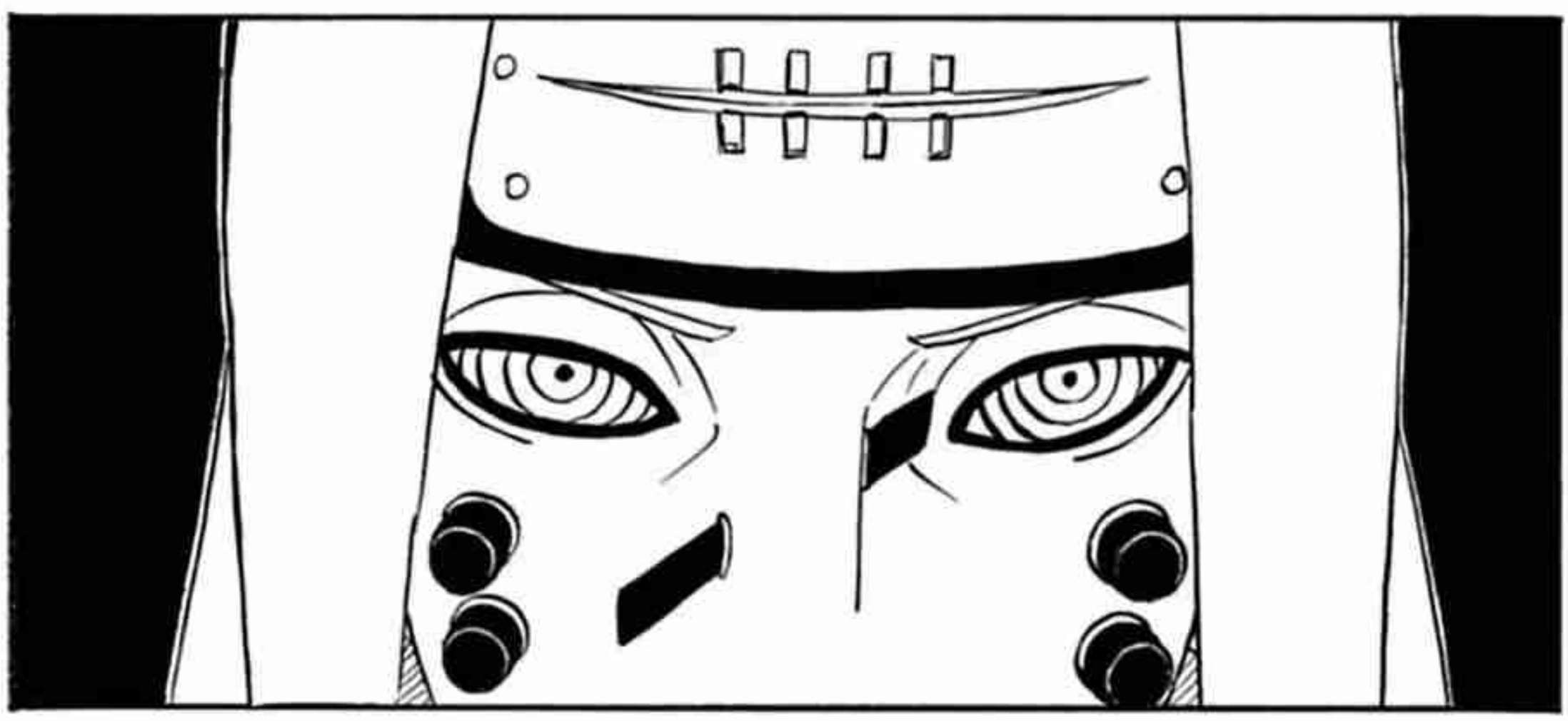
COME JUST A LITTLE CLOSER ...!!

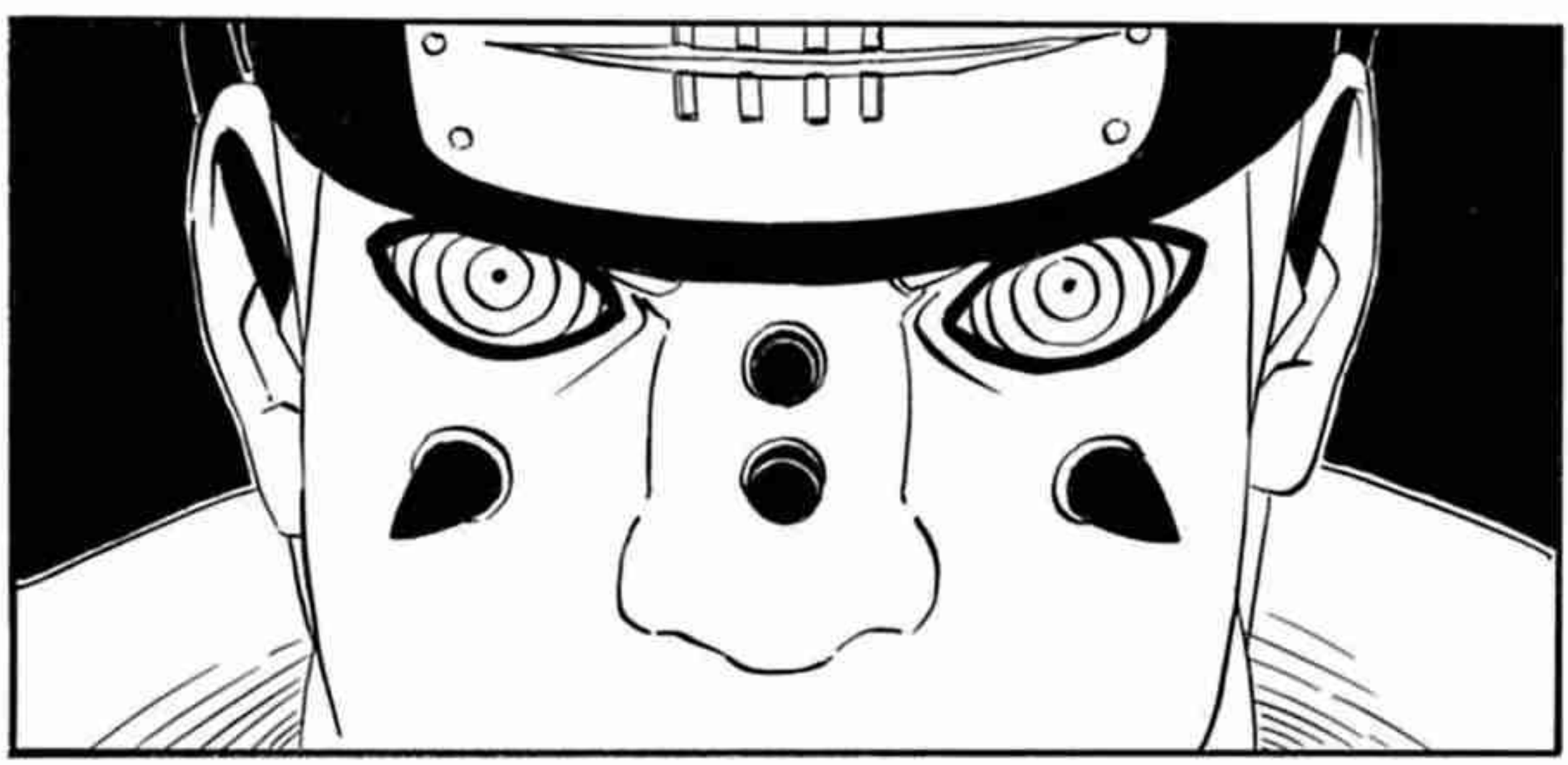
NOW WE'RE REALLY ONE ON ONE!!

NARUTO

Number 379: Jiraiya's Decision!!



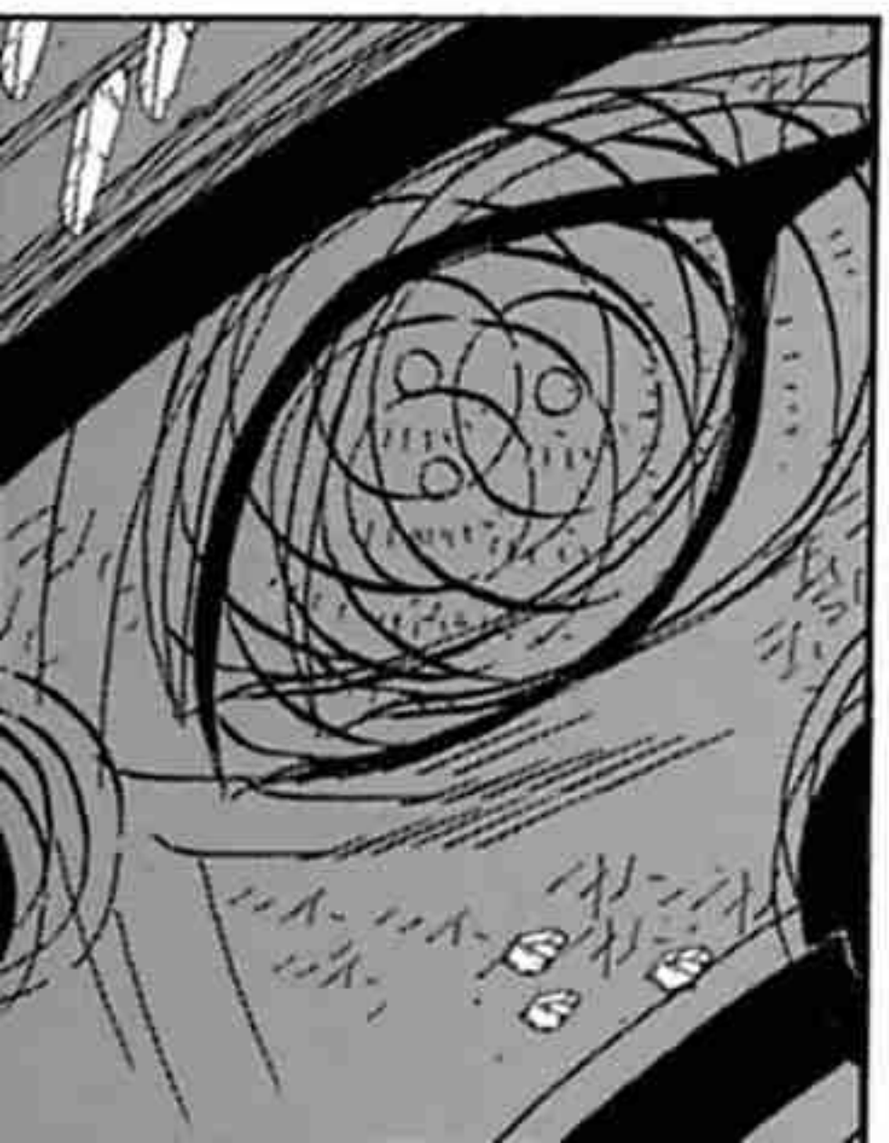


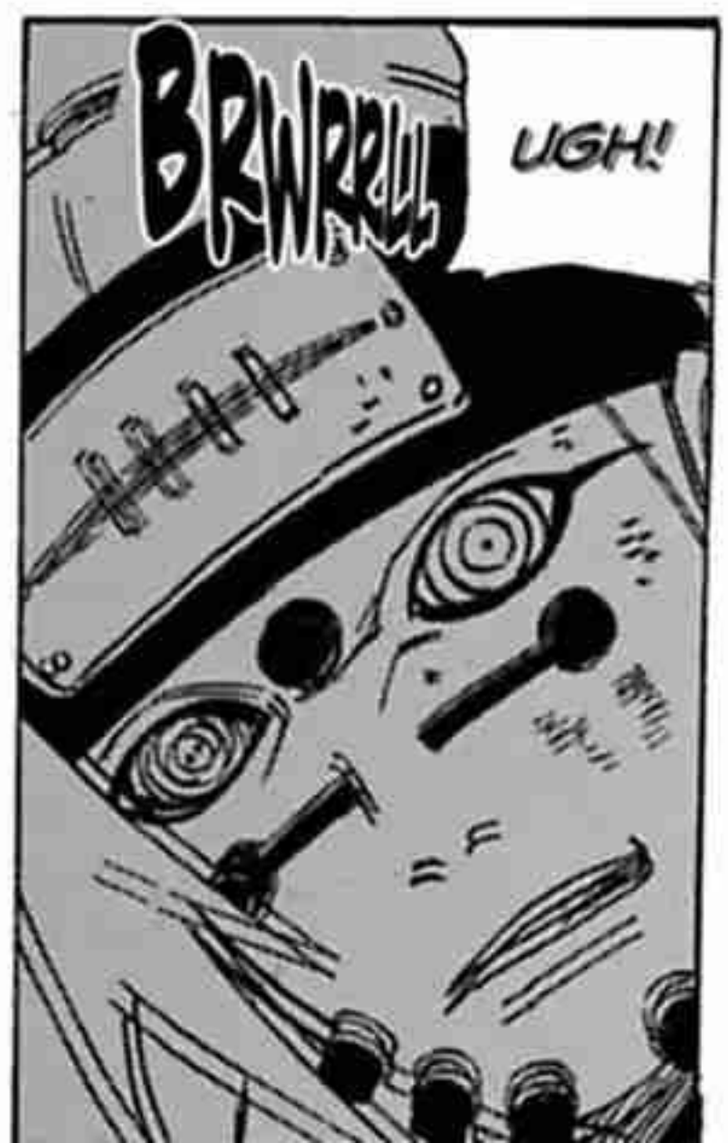


UGH... CAN'T MOVE.
FAP... FAP...
SHOO
!
CLOP
THWAP

I'M NOT LETTING YOU SUMMON!

CRAK
CRAK

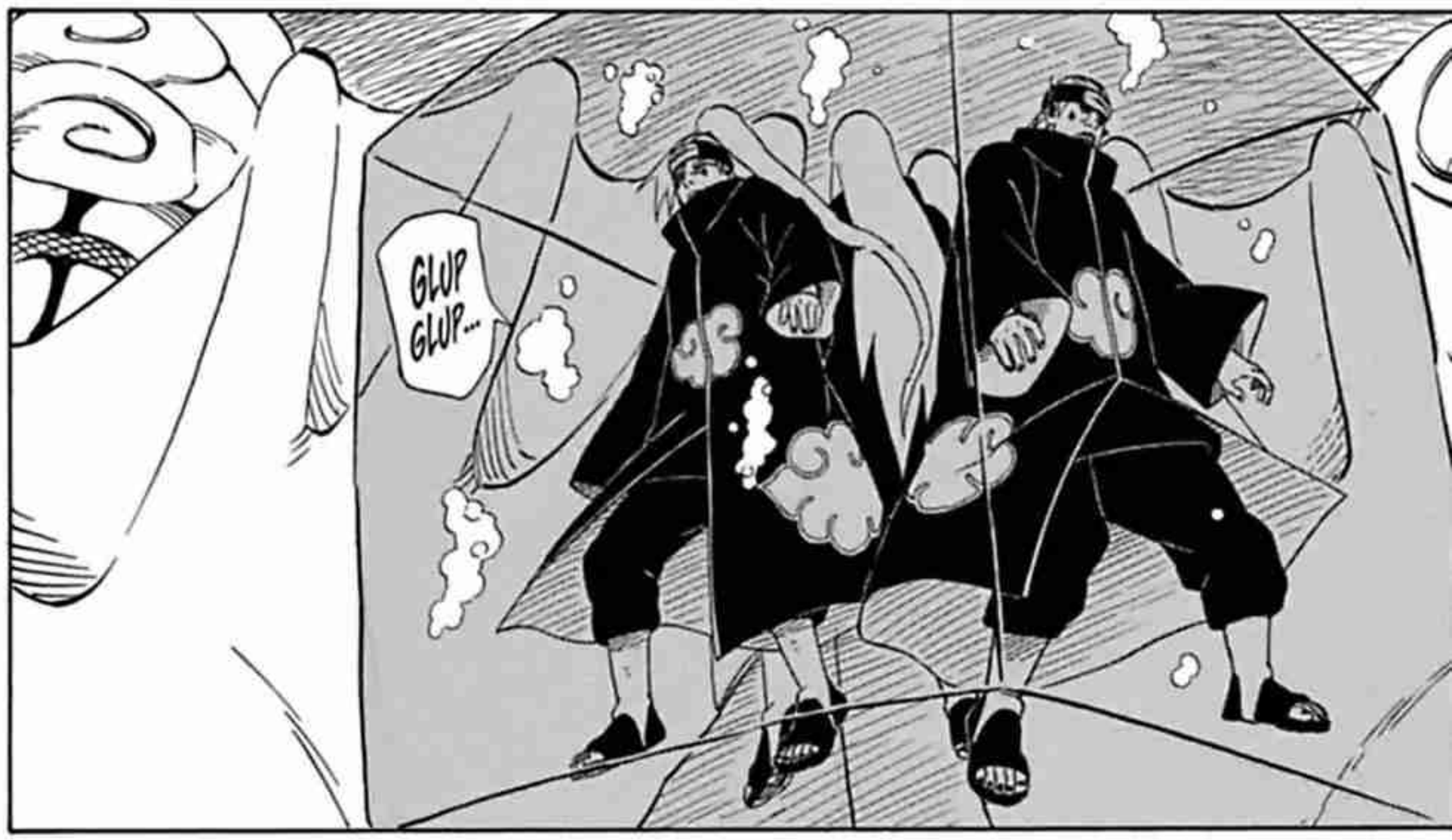



BRWRRLL
UGH!

!

!

!


GLUP GLUP...

NOW NONE OF YOUR BODIES WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE.
YOU ARE INSIDE A GENJUTSU PARALYSIS THAT BINDS YOUR PSYCHE.

YOU GOT US...

MASTER JIRAIYA... YOU HAVE THAT JUTSU...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN BEFALLS ME.

I JUST WANT TO PROTECT THEM.

ONE SUCH DISCIPLE WILL ONE DAY BRING ABOUT A GREAT CHANGE TO THE WORLD OF SHINOBI.

油

FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...

...I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONE...

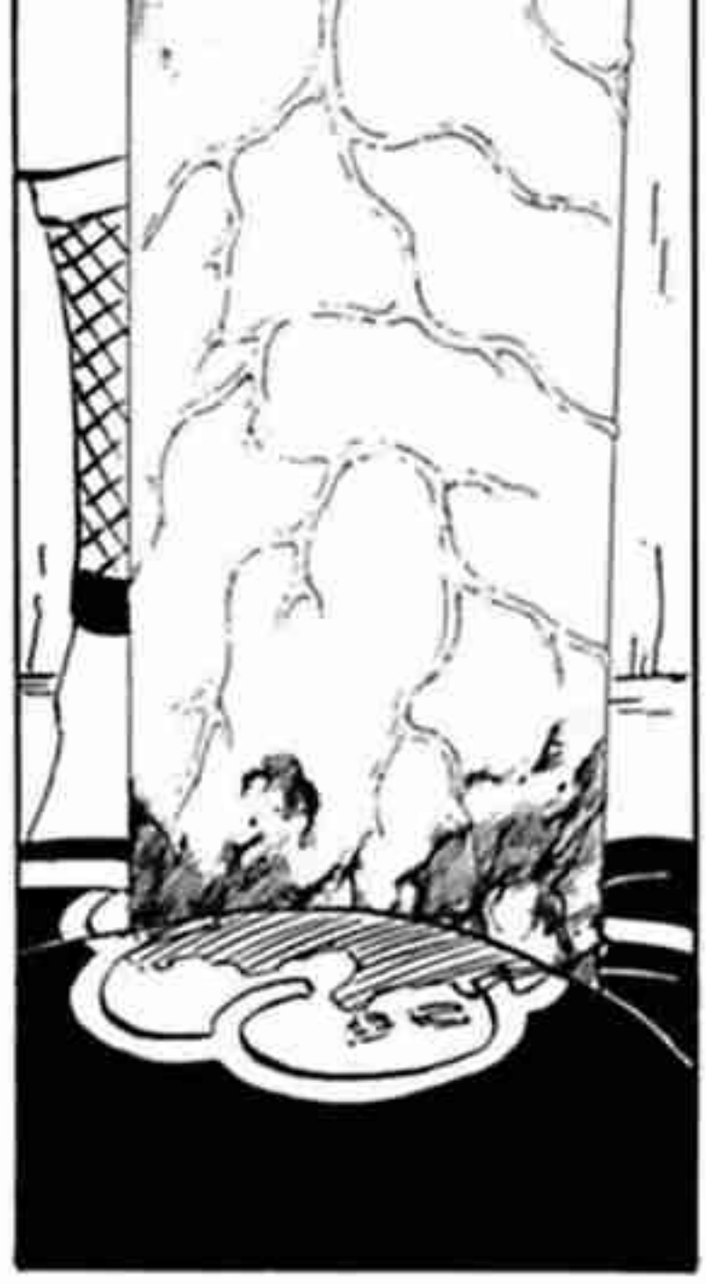
ONE OF THOSE TWO CHANGES.

EITHER GREAT STABILITY OR GREAT DESTRUCTION... THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

GLUB-GLUB

!

FARE-WELL...



UGH...
NNH...

KOFF!
!
HACK... HACK

IT'S DONE...
...

DAMAGES THE THROAT! STRETCHES THE LOWER JAW 'TIL IT SAGS!
CREATES WRINKLES!!
IT'S REAL HARD KEEPIN' TEMPO WITH PA...
THIS JUTSU AIN'T EASY AT ALL!

THIS GENJUTSU SONG TUCKERS OUT ONE'S THROAT.
ARE YOU BOTH ALL RIGHT?!

FOR...
...I'VE MADE MY SELEC-TION.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR REST NOW.
MY PROFOUND APOLO-GIES...
FSH

YOU TAUGHT ME NOT TO LET MY GUARD DOWN...

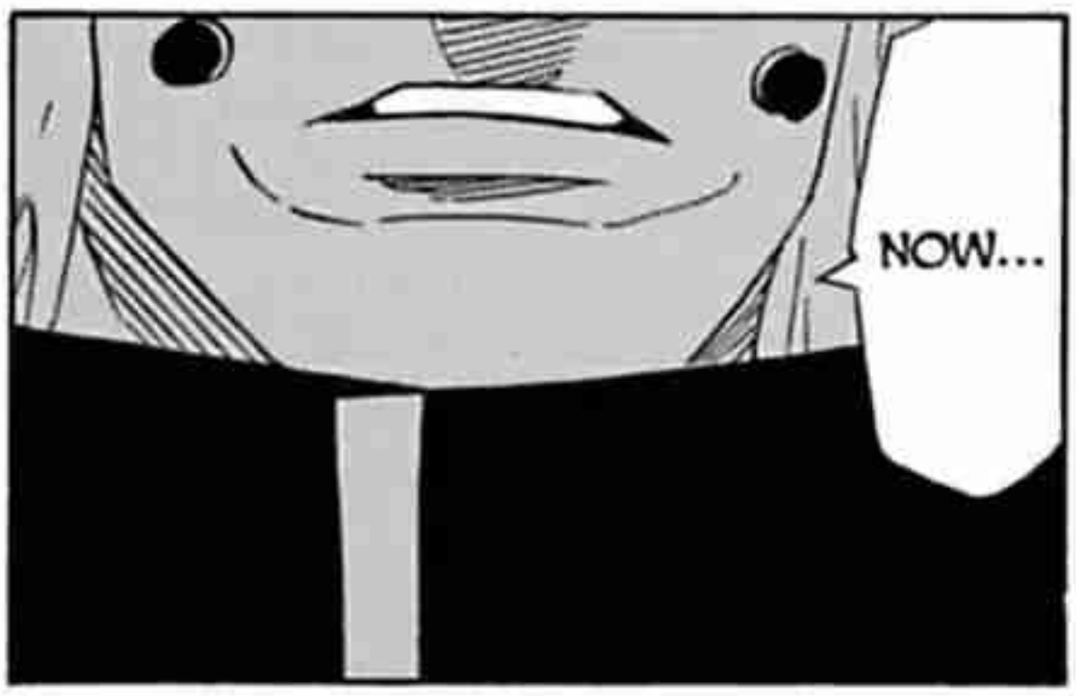
...MASTER JIRAIYA.

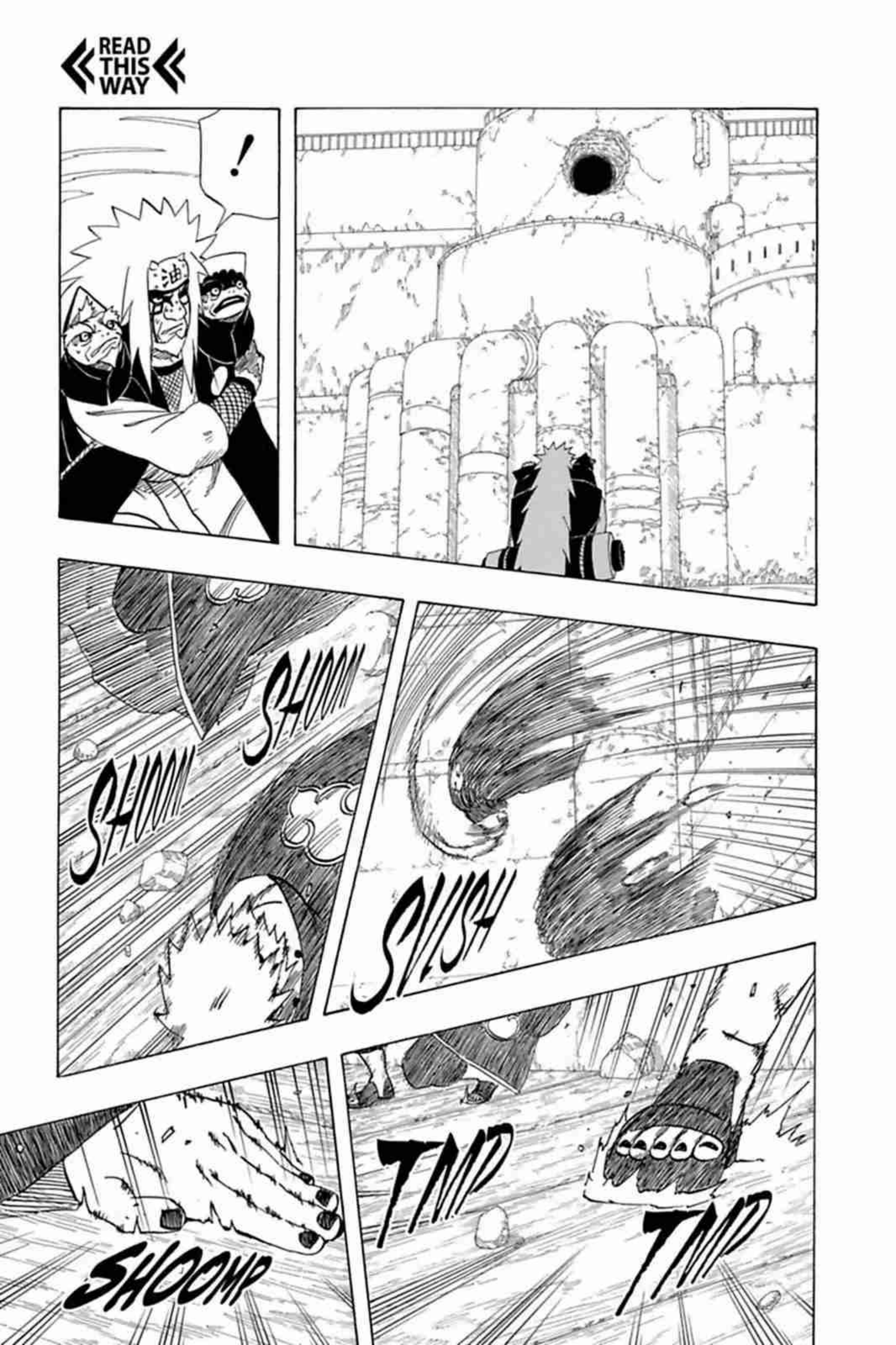
BAKOM

LAD! YOUR ARM...!!

RUNNN!!!

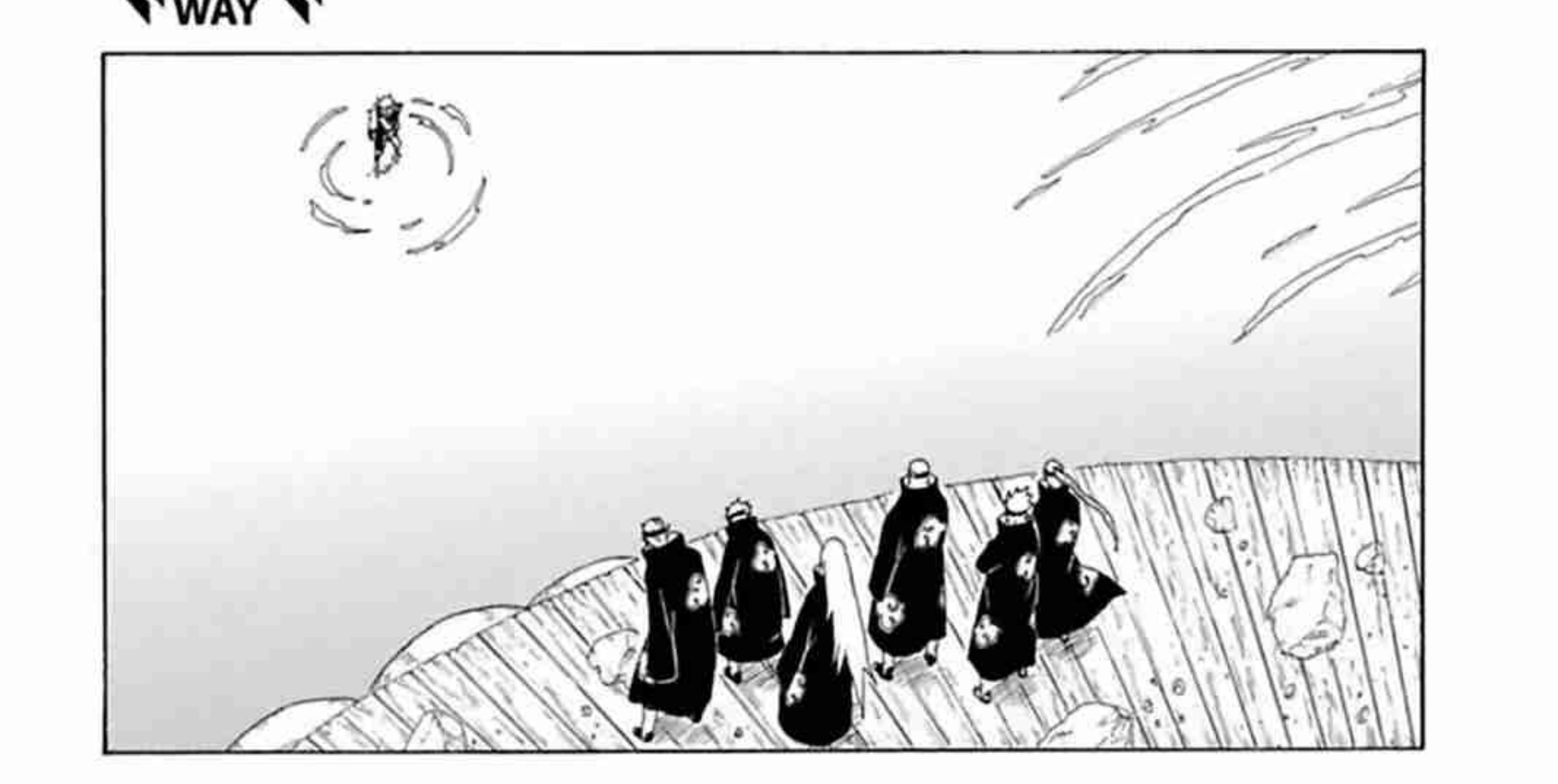
I KNOW...

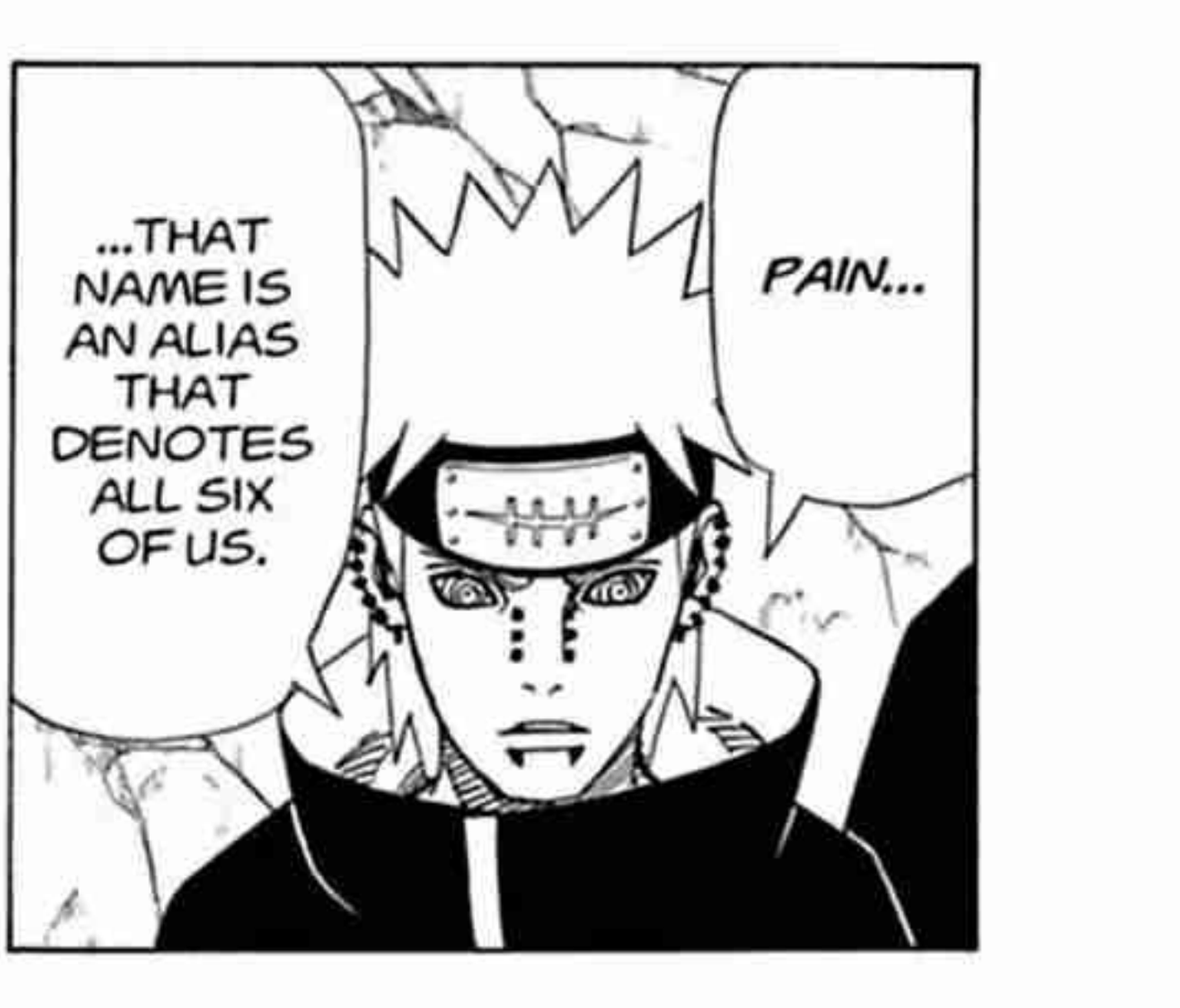


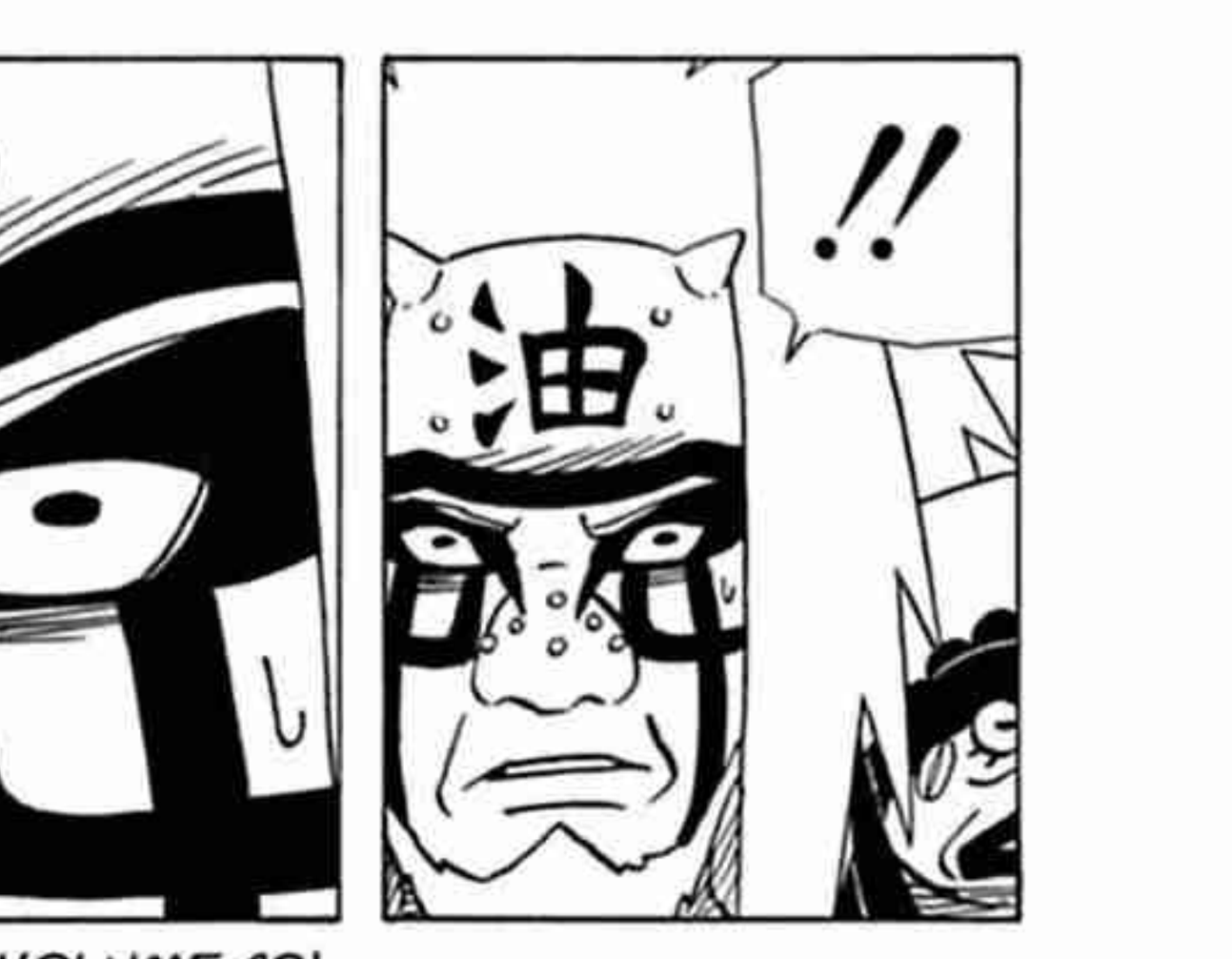

READ THIS WAY
!
油
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOMP
TMP
TMP

THE SIX PATHS OF PAIN...
WHOOSH
...IN ATTEN-DANCE.

油
...
?!!
HEY, LOOK CLOSE! DA THREE WE JUST DID IN ARE THERE TOO!!
THERE ARE SIX OF THEM?!
SIX...?!
PAIN...
...WHAT ARE YOU?!
PERHAPS ONE OF THEM THERE NEWLY SUMMONED ONES REVIVED 'EM WITH SOME SORT OF JUTSU...?!
ARE THEY REALLY HUMAN ?!!
THERE CAN'T BE THAT MANY JUTSU THAT KIN REVIVE THREE FELLAS THAT WERE ASSUREDLY DEAD?!!







TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 42!